



AEA-Europe Annual Report 2017

The Council of AEA-Europe

October 2017

Contents

- Introduction..... 2
- Evaluation in Relation to Strategic Aims 5
- AEA-E Council Members and Activities 7
- AEA-E Committees 9
 - Professional Development Committee (PDC) 9
 - Publication Committee..... 10
- Annual Conferences 12
 - 17th Annual Conference: Limassol, 3-5 November 2016..... 12
 - 18th Annual Conference: Prague, 9 – 11 November 2017 13
 - 19th Annual Conference: Arnhem-Nijmegen, 8 – 10 November 2018..... 15
- Awards and Accreditations..... 16
 - Kathleen Tattersall New Assessment Researcher Award 2017..... 16
 - Poster Award..... 16
 - Accredited Members 2017 17
- Financial Report..... 18
- Proposed Business Plan 2017-2019 21

Introduction

This past year has been very fruitful for AEA-Europe. Beyond the organisation of the annual conference, the association introduced new ideas, put in place new communication tools and refined its procedures and rules. Such a productive year confirms the association's commitment to steadily take on its missions and to hopefully foresee the growth of its membership in the years ahead.

Welcoming new people

First of all, there was a significant reconstitution among the Council and Committee members of the association. In November 2016, I took over the Presidency. On behalf of all the members of the association, I wish to thank my predecessor **Guri A. Nortvedt** for her commitment and dedication during the four years that she served, first as Vice-President and later as President.

In accordance with the statutes of the association, the new Vice-President elect, **Jannette Elwood** (Queen's University, Belfast) who also took over her role in November 2016 will assume presidency in November 2018. A new Council Member, **Rolf V. Olsen** (University of Oslo) was also elected at that same time and he became the Chair of the Professional Development Committee.

Changes to membership also occurred on the Publication Committee (PC) and the Professional Development Committee (PDC). I would like to thank the outgoing members, **Anastassia Voronnia**, **Daniel Xerri** and **Jeanne Marie Ryan** for their contribution to the PC and also warmly welcome the three new volunteers, **Deborah Chetcuti** (University of Malta) and **Mary Richardson** (University College London) to the PC and **Elena Papanastasiou** (University of Nicosia) to the PDC. They have all made a smooth transition in to their roles and are supporting the Association through their commitment to the work of their respective committees.

Organising conferences

At any one point in time, the association works on the upcoming and future conferences.

The annual conference organised in **2016** in **Limassol** was a success. The feedback from the participants was extremely positive, with regards to both the organisation as well as the content of the presentations.

The next conference in **2017** in **Prague** looks just as promising. The number of submissions was higher and around 270 people have enrolled. We have retained the innovations introduced last year, such as the poster session with short oral presentations. We have also proposed a new format related to the symposium, where the best-rated one is entitled to a keynote symposium. For the first time, there is a mobile application offering access to the conference programme, the choice of planning the activities you wish to attend as well as the possibility to vote for the best poster. The local team **Scio** have done a tremendous job to ensure that the conference runs as smooth as possible.

In **2018**, the **conference** will be hosted by **CITO** in Netherlands which will coincide with the 50th anniversary of CITO. I have personally had the opportunity to meet the organising teams there early in spring and I have absolutely no doubt that they will also deliver a successful conference.

We have also set the ball rolling for the future conferences. **A call for proposals for hosting the 2019 and 2020** conferences was made ensuring an open and transparent process in selection. Two proposals have been selected: Portugal (Lisbon) for 2019 and Ireland (Dublin) for 2020. The local team for these two countries are very motivated to welcome us and we have already started to work

with each of them. The organisation of the conferences hence follows the AEA-Europe's tradition of diversity with respect to the countries hosting the conference.

Enhancing the professionalism of the association

Beyond the organisation of the conferences, much effort was spent this year on the **internal organisation** of the association. In fact, the Council and Committee members are already highly committed in their own professional responsibilities. To ensure an efficient engagement of all these people involved, it is even more important that the work of the association is carried out as professionally and as efficiently as possible. Together with the Vice-President and the Secretariat, we attempted our best to rationalise the procedures and rules of the association and this work will be continued next year.

Beyond the organisation of the conferences, much effort was spent this year to the **internal organisation** of the association. The Council and Committee members have all shown commitment to the professional responsibilities taken on by them and to the work involved on behalf of the association. To ensure an efficient engagement of colleagues involved, it is even more important that the association runs in as professional a manner as possible. The President, Vice-President and the Secretariat were all involved in working towards a rationalisation of the procedures and policies of the association and this work will be continued next year.

Bringing more life to the association

The activities of the association aim to bring to life the network of researchers, specialists and policy-makers in the field of assessment. In this very spirit, we have reflected on the revision of the AEA-Europe **standards** which will be elaborated upon in a discussion group in Prague. Another discussion group will be devoted to the launch of our first **Special Interest Group (SIG)** on e-assessment, which is a theme that fosters much interest and exchange. There is also a new Facebook group established for the e-assessment SIG in order to share experiences.

We also place great emphasis on the development of professional networking via the **accreditation** process as well as the promotion of the network of **PhD students**: these networks will also meet in a special event in Prague. We would like to encourage more PhD students to join the Association and we intend to seek their views on aspects that would encourage them to become a member.

Developing communication tools

The tools of communication are fundamental to valuing and promoting the activities of the association. For this reason, **our website** has been freshly revamped to become more appealing and user-friendly.

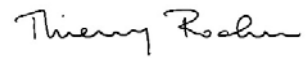
Concerning the use of **social media**, this past year the association has significantly increased its postings on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. We have also published four **Newsletters** (instead of two last year) containing the latest information about the activities of the association as well as spreading the work of our members or partners in the field of assessment.

Next year: increasing membership

In the coming year, we will continue to grow and promote the new tools and ideas that are now set up. The aim will be to establish a strategy in order to increase **membership**. It is important that as many European countries as possible are represented in our association, an aspect that needs improving. The **Business Plan** of the association is aligned this way. As in the previous years, the financial side of the association is stable and under control. During this year, we have invested in

professional development. Next year, we will need to invest in exploring strategies for the growth of membership.

The year gone by has thus been rich and exciting. It was a real pleasure and privilege for me to have contributed, as part of this wider family team, to the development of the association.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thierry Roche". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

AEA-Europe President

Evaluation in Relation to Strategic Aims

As written in the constitution, the association's aim is "to act as a European platform for discussion of developments in educational assessment, fostering co-operation and facilitating liaison between organisations and persons active in educational assessment across the whole of Europe".

To achieve this, three goals are set with respect to the association: (1) to increase its authority (2) to increase its membership, and (3) to enhance its standards of professionalism

In the following, we present activities to date in relation to these three goals.

1. To increase the authority of the association

1.1 Organising successful conferences

- Quality
The annual evaluation of the quality of conferences (keynotes, presentation, structure) continues to be positive.
- Attendance
The number of attendees has slightly increased between 2016 and 2017 (259 to 270).
The number of submissions for the annual conference continues to increase:
In 2017: 5 workshops, 6 discussion groups, 5 symposia, 15 posters, 92 papers
- Formats
For 2017, the new conference presentation format symposium (including a keynote symposium) is piloted.

1.2 Developing communication tools and networking activities

- Social media
The use of social media has significantly increased (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook)
- Newsletter
There were 4 publications this year (2016-2017), instead of 2 last year
- Special Interest Group (SIG)
A SIG about e-assessment has been established (discussion group in Prague)
A new Facebook Group has been set up
A procedure has been put in place to allow association members to propose and set up new SIGs

1.3 Strengthening professional development

- Standards
A reflection on the AEA-Europe standards has started (discussion group in Prague)
- PhD network and Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher award
A special event is organised in Prague
- Accreditation
A special event is organised in Prague

Plans

- To pilot a new format of presentation for the next conference
- To continue and re-inforce social media use and newsletter publications

- To develop and advertise the accreditation process
- To increase PhD students network and to advertise for the Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher award
- To continue the reflection about standards

2. To increase membership of the association

2.1 Analysing membership

- Membership numbers

Current membership has decreased since last year. But these numbers were somewhat inflated, because several members have been removed for not having paid membership for several years. Furthermore, comparing membership numbers in November each year might not accurately reflect the yearly active membership.

Table 1. Membership

Membership	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Individual	119	132	139	151	133**
Corporate	38	41	42	41	37
Student	34	46	48	8*	10

* In 2016, the general assembly decided that student memberships will have to be actively renewed each year

** In 2017, several members have been removed for not having paid membership for several years.

- Membership by country

The majority of members are coming from a small number of countries and a lot of European countries are not represented in the association.

2.2 Defining a strategy to increase membership

- Report on AEA-Europe membership

The Publication Committee has drafted a report about AEA-Europe membership in which several strategic actions have been proposed to increase the number and the diversity of the members of the association.

- Questionnaire about AEA-Europe membership

A questionnaire related to the gains of being a member of the association was designed and will be proposed to the Prague conference participants.

Plans

- To continue the reflection about increasing membership
- To determine a set of strategic actions for the next following years
- To engage funding to that purpose if necessary

3. To enhance standards of professionalism of the association

3.1 Increasing efficiency and transparency of the organisation

- Policy and Rules document

A first draft has been written.

- Conference Handbook

The Conference handbook has been revised.

- Audit committee
For the third year, an Audit Committee is responsible for auditing the accounts.
- Hosting Process
An open call for hosting the 2019 and 2020 conferences was undertaken.

3.2 Developing robust tools

- Submission system
A contract has been signed with an agency in order to take care of the submission process.
- Website
A new website has been set up, more appealing and easier to use at the back-end level.
- Mobile App
A dedicated app has been developed for the Prague conference.

Plans:

- To improve the website functionalities and to train those concerned in using them.
- To gather and analyse data, in order to monitor the activities of the association.
- To finalise the Policy and Rules document for the next GA.

AEA-E Council Members and Activities

The Council has met four times since the last General Assembly (November 2016 in Limassol, January 2017 in London, May 2017 in Prague and September 2017 in Paris). Between council meetings, the Council has had three Skype meetings, in March, June and October.

The main points discussed during these meetings were:

- conferences: past, current and future
- finances and business plan
- internal organisation
- communication
- professional development
- aims and strategy

Table 2 shows the members of the AEA-E Council up to November 2017. The table also lists the terms of office for the different members and provides comments on changes during the year or for the coming year, where appropriate.

In November 2018, two Council members will step down (Thierry Rocher and Iasonas Lamprianou). Therefore, an election process will be set up during 2018 to elect a new Vice-President (President-elect) and a new Council member.

It should be noted that the Secretariat will have served for 4 years in November 2018 and can pursue for 4 another years if wished, as indicated in the association's constitution.

Table 2: Council Members and Terms of Office

Name	Position in the Council	Start of the Present Term of Office	End of the Present Term of Office	Number of Previous Terms Fulfilled	Comment
Thierry Rocher (France)	President	Nov 16	Nov 18	0	Vice-president 2014-2016
Jannette Elwood (UK)	Vice President	Nov 16	Nov 18	0	Will take on the role of President in Nov 2018
Alex Scharaschkin (UK)	Executive Secretary	Nov 14	Nov 18	0	
Cor Sluijter (Netherlands)	Treasurer	Nov 15	Nov 19	0	
Iasonas Lamprianou (Cyprus)	Council Member	Nov 14	Nov 18	0	
Gill Stewart (UK)	Council Member	Nov 15	Nov 19	0	
Rolf V. Olsen (Norway)	Council member	Nov 16	Nov 20	0	

AEA-E Committees

Professional Development Committee (PDC)

Members

Rolf Vegar Olsen (University of Oslo, Norway), Chair

Bas Hemker (CITO, Netherlands)

Andrew Boyle (Alphaplus Consultancy, UK)

Elena Papanastasiou (University of Nicosia, Cyprus)

Stéphanie Berger (IBE, Switzerland)

Meetings and agenda

Business throughout the year was conducted both face-to-face and electronically. The main items of business were as follows:

- AEA-E accreditation scheme
- New Researcher Award combined with the Doctoral Network
- Poster Award
- Standards for Educational Assessment

Actions

One of the roles of the PDC is to identify and commission the kind of training that potential applicants would need to enhance their chances of successfully applying for Associate, Practitioner or Fellowship status. The PDC is also looking for enhancing the numbers of members applying for accreditation and in addition coordinates the procedure and engages fellows to assess applications for accreditation. In order to make the accreditation scheme more known the PDC had a stand at the 2017 conference in Prague.

During 2017 only two members have applied for accreditation, one for the status of practitioner and one for the status of Associate. Both applicants were successful. It should be mentioned that it is difficult to recruit Fellows to do the reviews for the applications. The PDC is of the opinion that we also need to recruit more new Fellows in the organisation. Several of our Fellows have or is close to retirement.

AEA-E recognises new talent in research by granting the Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award annually to the best applicant new assessment researcher in Europe. The PDC coordinates the procedure and engages fellows to assess the New Researcher Award proposals.

The PDC also continues outreach efforts aimed at doctoral students and catering to their professional needs. One effort to achieve this has been to organise a doctoral conference event for the annual conference, and this has been implemented successfully on all the conferences since 2014. In 2017 this event is partly co-hosted with an event for accredited members, and we hope this will also facilitate a potential arena for young researchers to meet and discuss their ideas with senior fellows.

The AEA Standards have not been revised since they were first published (version 1.0). The PDC has initiated activities to evaluate the impact of the standards (survey to members) and an ad hoc committee has been appointed to discuss if and more importantly how the Standards should be modified in order to be of use for educational assessment in Europe (and beyond). This ad hoc committee have met both physically and on Skype, and they organised a discussion group at the conference in Prague.

The PDC also organises the award for the best poster at the annual conference. In 2016 the poster session was reorganised to allow for the presenters to have a 90 seconds oral presentation of their work. This gave a much more active format and enhanced also the subsequent direct dialogue between presenters and the audience. We believe this is also the direct reason for why the conference in 2017 has received a substantially higher number of posters.

Publication Committee

Members

Gill Stewart (SQA, UK) - chair

Lesley Wiseman, Independent educational consultant (United Kingdom)

Amina Afif, Luxembourg Government (Luxembourg) (newsletter editor)

Deborah Chetcuit (University of Malta)

Mary Richardson (University College London)

Activity

During the course of the year three Publications Committee members stood down – Anastassia Voronnia, Daniel Xerri and Jeanne Marie Ryan. The Association thanks them for their excellent contributions to the work of the Association. A call for new members was made and two new members were appointed - Deborah Chetcuti and Mary Richardson.

The Publications Committee has been conducting its business through regular Skype meetings, telephone and e-mail.

Amina, in her role as Newsletter Editor, has been working with members of the Association to put out a more regular newsletter to keep members up to date with the latest news. She has also updated the format of the newsletter as well.

Daniel was instrumental in developing a social media strategy and taking on the role of Social Media Manager to start to implement the strategy. He established a new Facebook Page for the Association. The LinkedIn and twitter accounts continue to be used by members. Twitter was used successfully during the Cyprus conference. In addition, video content from the Cyprus was used for the Facebook page as part of the communication strategy. Mary will take over from Daniel as the social media Manager, as she has experience of doing this successfully for another professional association. We look forward to working with Mary to develop further the use of social media.

Lesley Has been leading for the Association on the establishment of Special Interest Groups. She has developed a process and paperwork for the establishment of Special Interest Groups. Members can

now propose new Special Interest Groups. She has been working with the Chair of the first Special Interest Group to help establish the first SIG in e-assessment. A chair and executive committee have been established and they will launch the SIG at this year conference and we would encourage members to play an active role in this group.

Deborah, recently joined the Publications Committee and has started her work by developing a strategy about how the Association could go about increasing its membership from its current base. This includes an analysis of current membership by country, type of membership and the types of organisations represented. She will be looking at a range of possible approaches that the Association could use to increase membership. This will be discussed with the Council.

Annual Conferences

17th Annual Conference: Limassol, 3-5 November 2016

'Social and Political underpinnings of educational assessment: Past, present and future'

Preparation

An offer to host the conference in Limassol was submitted in 2013 by the University of Cyprus. The University of Cyprus has successfully hosted a large number of international conferences and has a lot of relevant experience. The University of Cyprus has partnered with EasyConferences (<http://easyconferences.eu/>), a very experienced company which organizes many conferences across Europe every year. The conference venue is the St Raphael Hotel, a 5-star resort by the beach in Limassol. Limassol is an amazing city with rich historical and cultural richness, situated strategically in a central spot in-between the two international airports of the island.

The Local Organising Committee is chaired by Assistant Professor Iasonas Lamprianou (University of Cyprus) and includes other members of the university (Michalis Michaelides and Dina Tsagari) as well as academics from other universities (Elena Papanastasiou, University of Nicosia, Cyprus).

The Conference Organizing Committee consists of Iasonas Lamprianou (University of Cyprus, Cyprus), Thierry Rocher (France), George MacBride (University of Glasgow, Scotland), Cor Sluijter (Cito, Netherlands), and Dina Tsagari (University of Cyprus, Cyprus). The Scientific Programme Committee members are Sarah Maughan (AEA-Europe member, AlphaPlus, UK), Guri A. Nortvedt (President AEA-Europe, University of Oslo, Norway), Gill Stewart (Council member, AEA-Europe, SQA, Scotland/UK), Michalis Michaelides (Local Organising Committee, University of Cyprus, Cyprus), Elena Papanastasiou (Local Organising Committee, University of Nicosia, Cyprus), Andrej Novik (AEA-Europe member, SCIO, Czech Republic).

Interest

There was a significant interest for the Limassol conference with a total of 152 submissions received. After peer review, most of the submissions were accepted, which resulted to seven parallel sessions (as was the case with the Glasgow conference). As it happened last year, keynote presentations are reserved for Thursday and Saturday only whereas Friday is solely dedicated to open paper sessions, symposia, discussion groups as well as the poster presentations and the general assembly. In order to accommodate all accepted presentations, the programme was extended with a parallel session Saturday morning. Overall, there were 259 participants at the conference.

Social programme and venues

A meet-and-greet for doctoral students took place on November 3rd from 17:15 to 19:00. During the meeting drinks and canapés were offered to all attendees. The event was attended by 25 participants.

The welcome cocktail for new attendees took place on November 2nd between 18:30 – 19:00, immediately before the Welcome Reception for all participants. It was a relaxing cocktail gathering held at the venue Hotel, at the lobby area and the outside veranda. The President and the Council of AEA-Europe welcomed all new attendees in person. The event was attended by 65 delegates.

The conference welcome reception was held on Thursday afternoon, at the premises of the St Raphael Resort, right after the Welcome Cocktail for new attendees. The President and the Council welcomed all delegates with a short speech. Although the event was scheduled for one hour, it was extended close to 2 hours. The event was attended by 220 delegates.

The dinner was held in Siambelos Restaurant, a traditional Greek Cypriot tavern on the hillside above Limassol. Participants travelled there by coach, departing at 19.00 from St Raphael Resort (venue). On arrival, there were welcome drinks and nibbles on the terrace which overlooks the city and out to sea. The dinner consisted of an array of traditional dishes complimented with local drinks, fruits and desserts. The music entertainment began with a live performance by a local band which played Greek and Cypriot contemporary music, followed by a 40-minute dancing act by a local group. At the end of the performance, delegates were encouraged to join in the dance. During dinner there was a short welcome speech by Iasonas Lambrianou, Chair of the Local Organising Committee. After the dinner was over, there were bus departures from the site towards St. Raphael hotel. Overall, 243 delegates participated at the event.

18th Annual Conference: Prague, 9 – 11 November 2017

“Assessment cultures in a globalised world”

Prague is our host city for 2017. It is the capital and largest city of the Czech Republic; it is also the historical capital of Bohemia situated in the north-west of the country on the Vltava River. Prague holds many attractions including Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, Old Town Square with the Prague astronomical clock, the Jewish Quarter, Petřín Hill and Vyšehrad. Prague is also home to a wide range of public and private schools, including Charles University in Prague, the oldest university in Central Europe.

Our local conference chair for the 2017 conference is Andrej Novik, SCIO. SCIO is supported by a local organising committee comprising members from SCIO (Barbara Pilařová and Jan Weisser) and the Centre of Administration and Operations of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Preparation

The Prague team have worked with The Centre of Administration and Operations of the Czech Academy of Sciences to help secure the conference venue and gala dinner venue. The venue for the conference is the Hotel Corinthia, which overlooks Prague and is a couple of metro stops from central Prague.

The AEA-Europe Council/SCIO also took the decision to partner again with EasyConferences (<http://easyconferences.eu/>) who supported the 17th Annual Conference in Limassol. EasyConferences also supported the submission of papers to the conference through their dedicated website and have supported the implementation of the Conference Programme App.

The Conference Organizing Committee (COC) are: Thierry Rocher (President, AEA-Europe, France) (Chair), Andrej Novik (AEA-Europe member, SCIO, Czech Republic), Jannette Elwood (Vice-President, AEA-Europe, Northern Ireland), George MacBride (University of Glasgow, Scotland), Guri A. Nortvedt

(Immediate Ex-President AEA-Europe, Norway), Barbora Pilařová (SCIO colleague, Czech Republic), Alex Scharaschkin (Executive Secretary, AEA-Europe, UK)), Linda Wye (AEA-Europe Secretariat).

The Scientific Programme Committee members are: Sarah Maughan (Co-Chair, AEA-Europe member, AlphaPlus, UK), Stuart Shaw (Co-Chair, AEA-Europe member, Cambridge Assessment, UK), Jana Straková, (Local Organising Committee Member, Institute for Development and Research in Education, Czech Republic), Radek Blažek, (Local Organising Committee Member, Czech School Inspectorate, Czech Republic), Gill Stewart (AEA Europe Council member, SQA, Scotland), Cor Sluijter (AEA-Europe Treasurer, Cito, Netherlands).

The Conference Organising Committee (COC) held nine (9) Skype meetings between January and November 2017. These meetings discussed progress and ensured good planning. In addition, the AEA-Europe Council held its May Council meeting in Prague so that it could see/review venues for the conference and associated events (pre-conference workshops, gala dinner, meets and greets for AEA-Europe Fellows and PhD Students, etc) and Guri Nortvedt visited Prague in June 2016 and August 2017 for on-site conference planning and final review of facilities and testing the conference App.

Interest

As with AEA-Europe Conferences generally, there was significant interest in the Prague Conference with a total of 152 submissions received. After peer review, most of the submissions were accepted, which resulted in multiple parallel sessions). The programme for 2017 has been slightly amended given feedback from participants of the Limassol Conference. Thursday's presentations are a mixture of keynote presentations including the Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award presentation, the poster session and open paper sessions. Friday's sessions are dedicated to open paper presentations and discussion groups as well as the general assembly. The latter this year have been programmed together and not against open paper sessions to help support attendance and interaction in these sessions. Saturday's sessions are based around the symposia submitted to the conference with the new Keynote Symposia presentation finishing off a very interesting morning of grouped papers. The number of participants is 270.

Social programme and venues

The conference welcome reception is being held on Wednesday evening at the main conference venue – The Hotel Corinthia. As well as a formal welcome to the conference by the President, and the Executive Council, there will be a warm welcome to new delegates, current members and greetings to all returning participants to the conference. There will be a special welcome to those people who attended the Association's very first conference in Prague in 2000.

Two receptions are being held on Thursday 9th November at the Prague Creative Centre. These are: (i) welcome for all doctoral students; and (ii) meet and greet for all accredited members of the association. Both meetings take place in the quaint medieval building with a modern and creative feeling and offer excellent opportunities for networking of doctoral students and accredited members.

The conference dinner is being held on the evening of Friday 10th November in the Art Nouveau restaurant situated within the Municipal House – a significant Art Nouveau gem of Prague's architecture heritage, built by the famous Czech architects Antonin Balšánek and Osvald Polivka in

1912. After the dinner there is an entertainment programme prepared for participants by the local organising committee in the majestic basement of the Municipal House.

19th Annual Conference: Arnhem-Nijmegen, 8 – 10 November 2018

The 19th annual conference will be hosted by Cito, Institute for Educational Measurement, and take place in the region Arnhem-Nijmegen, the Netherlands. 2018 is also the 50th anniversary of Cito. The theme of the conference will be “Bridging to future educational assessment”.

The local organising committee will be formed by staff members of Cito International. The venue for the conference, including the pre-conference workshops, will be the Van der Valk Hotel Nijmegen-Lent, which is centrally located in the urban zone of Arnhem and Nijmegen. The venue overlooks the typical Dutch landscape of the rivers Rhine and Waal. Arnhem is the capital city of the province of Gelderland and for almost 50 years the seat of Cito. The city is located at the Rhine, which river can be crossed by the famous ‘Bridge to Far’: a heavily combatted strategic crossing in the last episode of World War II. Nijmegen is the oldest city in the Netherlands dating more than 2000 years back in the period of the expansion of the Roman empire in Northern Europe, when the city was named Noviomagus. The region Arnhem-Nijmegen is located very close to the border with Germany. You can reach many European cities like Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Köln and Düsseldorf within a two-hour drive by car or train. The region is also home to a wide range of educational institutes and schools, like the Arnhem School of Arts Artez, the Arnhem Academy of Music, the Radboud University Nijmegen and the University for Applied Sciences Arnhem-Nijmegen (HAN).

Meetings between the LOC of Cito and the Council are being held on several occasions to ensure good planning. In addition, Thierry Rocher visited Arnhem-Nijmegen in May 2017 for an on-site conference planning. During this visit, the preferred venue for the conference was visited and confirmed.

Awards and Accreditations

Kathleen Tattersall New Assessment Researcher Award 2017

Following the process indicated on the website, a call for applications for the New Assessment Researcher Award was sent out with an application deadline set at 30th April. Applications were requested from individuals who are currently in the first three years after being awarded their doctoral degree, and who are currently also engaged an assessment-related field with research of relevance for assessment practices.

The chair of the Professional Development Committee (PDC), Rolf V. Olsen, withdrew completely from the evaluation process this year since he was the supervisor of one of the applicants. Instead Elena Papanastasiou from the PDC was responsible for overseeing the evaluation process this year, and two Fellows were invited to review the application. These Fellows were asked to evaluate whether the application complied with the criteria and the quality requirements of the award.

After the evaluation process, this year's prize was decided to be awarded to Fazilat Siddiq from Norway. Dr. Siddiq will present her research as one of the keynotes at the Prague conference, and she will receive a prize of €500. The award is sponsored by AQA. In addition the AEA will cover the conference fee, and the recipient is also eligible for support with the cost of travelling to the conference.

Panel:

Elena Papanastasiou, Cyprus

Rose Clesham, United Kingdom

Anton Beguin, the Netherlands

As a general note the PDC will before the next announcement develop a strategy for motivating even more candidates to apply.

Poster Award

At the 17th annual AEA-E conference in Limassol, 16 posters were presented following a new format, where poster presenters had to give a pitch of maximally 90 seconds on their posters in a plenary session. All conference delegates were invited to rate the posters against specified criteria and to nominate up to five posters for the award. The PDC counted the votes and proclaimed the winner. The poster "You read on screen, I read on paper – are we reading the same text?" presented by Ragnhild Engdal Jensen, PhD student from the Department of Teacher Education and School Research of Oslo University won the poster award. The award was, as usually, sponsored by CITO, the Netherlands. The award consists of a one day visit to Cito, expenses paid. Purpose of the visit is to share and discuss the research presented and its outcomes with Cito staff and consulting Cito specialists on the research topic. Cito was visited by Ragnhild on June 27th, 2017.

Accredited Members 2017

The following accreditations were made this year. The accredited members will receive their certificates at the award ceremony during the last day of the annual conference:

Practitioner: Roel Visseren, the Netherlands

Associate: Hannah Montgomery, UK

The number of applications to be accredited has decreased over the last years. The PDC will during the coming term develop a strategy to promote the accreditation scheme. An important part of the strategy will be to identify even more clearly the merits and relevance of the status.

Financial Report

The financial report over 2016 is presented below. First, in table 3a, the operating budget for 2016 is presented, followed by a more detailed profit and loss overview of the Limassol conference in table 3b and next, in table 4, the balance sheet. All overviews will be explained briefly, starting with the operating budget below.

A direct overall comparison of the results for 2016 and 2015 is not possible. After several years of managing registration through the website, the Council decided to outsource the registration for the 2016 conference. As a result of this decision, the Limassol conference income in table 3a only reflects conference revenues, while the Glasgow conference shows total income and expenditure. This results in artificial sharp decreases in both total income and total expenditure from 2015 to 2016. In order to provide comprehensive financial information for 2016 a detailed profit and loss overview of the Limassol conference has been added to this report in table 3b.

Taking the administrative effects of outsourcing the conference registration into account, a comparison of the financial report for 2016 with the budget for 2016 and the financial report 2015 shows no striking differences. As income is concerned, the operating budget makes clear that the revenues from subscription fees are relatively stable. Costs for council meetings were somewhat higher than expected. This had to do with increased travel and subsistence costs due to changes in the membership of the council. All other costs have stayed within budget. In the previous financial report it was mentioned that 2015 showed a normal course of financial events, so it can be concluded that the same holds for the financial results of 2016.

The Limassol conference all in all had a positive financial result of € 16.600, almost equal to the result of the Glasgow conference (in total € 16,825), which in its turn produced more revenues than the Tallinn conference (€ 14,785). Bear in mind that the financial result of the Limassol conference would have been better, if the bank charges having to do with subscriptions for the conference would have been placed under the debit entry for general expenditure.

The profit and loss overview of the Limassol conference in table 3b gives a detailed overview of the income and expenditure having to do with the conference. As income is concerned the amount of minus €2100 has to do with four attendees that were only able to pay after the conference and one member paying attendance fees and workshop costs directly to the Association. That is why table 3a shows a profit of €16.600 and table 3b shows a profit of €14.500.

The total income of sponsoring comes from AQA Education (Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award and exhibitor's stand; €1000), Springer (flyer in the delegate bags; €150; Vretta and Grademaker (both an exhibitor's stand; €1000); Cambridge Assessment (lanyards sponsorship, exhibitor's stand and flyer in the delegates bags; €2.210) and the Cyprus Tourism Organization (€5.5000).

As expenditure is concerned, conference material refers to the production of banners, lanyards, badges, conference bags, pens, pads and the conference handbook and conference proceedings book. Conference events refer with coffee breaks and lunches, the welcome cocktail for new attendees, the welcome reception, the meet & greet event for PhD students, and a closing meeting. EasyConferences services refer to costs for the onsite secretariat, website/online registration and online support; design and supervision of services, coordination of the conference events/social activities and financial management. The debit entries that are VAT liable are labeled. Total VAT amounts to € 4.002. The final debit entry shows the bank charges associated with the subscriptions.

Table 3a; Operating Budget (in Euros)

	Report 31-12-2015	Budget 2016	Report 31-12-2016
Income			
2016 Subscriptions (Corporate)			22.200
2016 Subscriptions (Individual)			9.170
2016 Subscriptions (Student)			320
Subscriptions	36.470	35000	31.690
Uncollectable debtors	-5.110		- 5.550
Talinn Conference Income 2014	470		
Glasgow Conference Income 2015 ¹	127.120		1.400
Limassol Conference Income 2016		15.000	16.600
Sponsoring conference	8.038		
Interest	239	200	90
	167.227	50.200	44.230
Expenditure			
Council Meetings	5.661	8.000	
Council Meeting January			2.445
Council Meeting June			2.861
Council Meeting September			4.528
Limassol Conference Expenditure 2016 ²			4.671
Glasgow Conference Expenditure 2015	119.541		
Professional Development Committee	1.562	3.000	2.173
Comm.& Publ. Committee		3.000	1.651
Website development	5.338	4.000	2.500
New researcher award ³		500	1.000
Executive Secretarial	22.364	20.000	20.000
Promotional activities	3.481		
Audit Committee		300	
Miscellaneous	0	1.000	16
Bank Charges; Gain/Loss Foreign Exchange ⁴	2.832	2.500	954
Bank Charges Conference ⁵			68
	160.778	42.300	42.868
Surplus	6.448	7.900	1.362

¹ Extra profit of €1,400 in 2016

² Travel and subsistence of visits to the venue by council and committee members in 2016

³ In 2016 it was discovered that the 2015 Kathleen Tattersal New Researcher Award had not been paid. This has been corrected.

⁴ Bank charges having to do with the Limassol conference are not part of this sum; see table 3b

⁵ Bank charges having to do with the 2015 Glasgow conference

Table 3b; Profit and loss overview Limassol Conference (in Euros)

Income	Euro	#	Total
<i>Early Registration fees</i>			
AEA-Europe Full Member Fee	400	149	59.600
Non-Member Fee	470	57	26.790
AEA-Europe Student Member Fee	245	17	4.165
Registrations covered by AEA			-2.100
<i>Late Registration fees</i>			
AEA-Europe Full Member Fee	465	11	5.115
Non-Member Fee	535	8	4.280
AEA-Europe Student Member Fee	310	2	620
Pre-Conference Workshop Fee	100	49	4.900
Extra vouchers for Conference dinner	50	13	650
Accompanying person package	200	2	400
Sponsoring			9.860
			114.280
Expenditure			
Invited speakers expenses			5.103
Producing conference material+gifts (VAT)			8.210
Conference events			42.977
Conference dinner	50	243	12.150
EasyConferences services (VAT)			11.655
Water in conference rooms			500
Photographer (VAT)			1.000
Poster panels transport & set up (VAT)			200
Laptops and projectors in rooms			5.400
Meeting rooms			3.390
Pre planning/meeting costs			1.835
Easychair fee			300
Various transportation/postal cost			150
Conference extras			300
VAT 19%	21.065	19,00%	4.002
Bank charges	104.320	2,50%	2.608
			99.780
Surplus			14.500

Table 4; Balance sheet as at December 31, 2016 (in Euros)

<u>Assets</u>	Bank (Rabobank)	18.594
	Deposit	50.473
	Cash	440
		69.507
<u>Receivables</u>	Debtors	24.480
		24.480
<u>Payables</u>	Subscriptions paid in advance	70
		70
<u>Sundry</u>	Sundry	15.380
		15.380
Net Assets		<u>109.296</u>
<u>Equity</u>	Retained profits (31-12-2015)	107.935
	Surplus / Deficit 2016	1.362
Total Equity		<u>109.296</u>

The total amount of assets at December 31, 2016 is € 109.296. At December 31, 2015 the total amount of assets was €156.582.

The receivables consist of interest for 2016 still to be received (€ 89,64), outstanding conference income (€ 16.100) and outstanding subscriptions for 2014, 2015 and 2016 (€ 8.290). Sundry refers to items that have been paid in 2016 but relate to 2017 (e.g. conference costs that have been paid in 2016 for the 2017 Prague conference), or to items that should have been paid in 2016 but were/are to be paid in 2017. The sundry for 2016 is € 15.380, consisting of a deposit for the 2017 conference 2017 (+€ 36.000), council costs (+€ 59,48 and +€ 464,12) website costs (-€ 100,00) executive secretarial costs 2017 (-€ 20.000), bank charges (-€ 322,43) and costs for the publications committee (- € 721,40).

Proposed Business Plan 2017-2019

The Business Plan as presented in last year's annual report has been updated again. Since the Business Plan 2015-2017 a more conservative policy has been applied, because the years 2014 and 2015 made clear that the Association was too optimistic about the expected revenues.

The Business Plan 2017-2019 as presented in this annual report has a slightly less conservative nature. It still is in line with what has been agreed upon in the financial policy document: the Association has to maintain reserves that are at least equivalent to the funding of 18 month of

normal activities (council and committee meetings and a reasonable amount to be used as deposits for conference arrangements). But the plan is to try again to improve the number of members for the association. In order to achieve this, the council has explored deploying functionality ResearchGate offers as a tool. ResearchGate is the largest social networking site in the world for scientists and researchers to share papers, ask and answer questions, and find collaborators. It has over 4 million European members. Using the tools Researchgate offers has a limited financial risk and leads to outcomes and impacts that are easier to evaluate than earlier attempts to increase membership. It is the intention of the council to pilot and evaluate this approach in 2018. This proposal will be put before the General Assembly. The costs involved are estimated at € 4.000.

If the assets will increase more than stipulated in this Business Plan, the Council will decide in coordination with the General Assembly how the Association could benefit from the better than foreseen financial results, taking the conservative financial policy into account.

The projected budgets for 2017-2019 were, as always, based on the structural financial results of the last years and on the assumption that no incidents will take place.

Table 5 Business Plan 2016-2018; Budgets

	2017	2018	2019
Income			
Subscriptions	35.000	36.750	36.750
Interest	100	100	100
Conference income	15.000	19.000	19.000
	50.100	55.850	55.850
Expenditure			
Council	10.000	10.000	10.000
Administration	20.000	20.000	20.000
PDC Committee	1.000	3.000	3.000
Audit Committee	300	300	300
Communications Committee	3.000	3.000	3.000
Standards Committee	2.000		
New Researcher Award	500	500	500
Website/software	15.000	4.000	4.000
Bank charges/gain loss foreign exchange	1.000	1.000	1.000
Promotional activities		4.000	
Participation fund ⁶		5.000	5.000
Miscellaneous	100	100	100
	52.900	50.900	46.900
Annual surplus (deficit)	-2.800	4.950	8.950

⁶ For the explanation of this provision, see the next page.

Note that for this year's conference and the following years, for reasons of environmental sustainability, the Council replaced the paper conference program book with a digital conference app. Note furthermore that the website has been revised and rebuilt. Both intended changes were brought before the General Assembly at Limassol and approved and are now reflected in the budgets. Replacing the conference program by an app is expected to have a positive effect on conference expenditure, as printing is relatively expensive. The costs of revising and rebuilding the website are estimated at € 15.000.

Note in addition to the above that previously, AEA-Europe ran a scheme, funded through voluntary contributions from members over and above the annual membership fee, to support attendance at the annual conference for those for whom the costs of attending would otherwise be prohibitive. Because the organization is in good financial health, the Council has decided to make a provision of €5.000 to fund a similar scheme going forward and labelled this the Participation Fund.