



AEA-Europe Annual Report 2019

The Council of AEA-Europe

October 2019

Contents

Introduction 2019	3
Evaluation in Relation to Strategic Aims	6
AEA-E Council Members and Activities	10
AEA-E Committees	12
Annual Conferences	167
Awards and Accreditations	200
Kathleen Tattersall New Assessment Researcher Award 2018	200
Poster Award	21
Accredited Members 2018	211
Financial Report	23

Introduction 2019

I have very much enjoyed my first year as President of AEA-Europe. It has been a productive year and much work by the Council has been undertaken: the organisation of the Lisbon (2019) and Dublin (2020) conferences; solidifying the sub-committee structure of Council with new volunteers involving themselves in the work of the Association; networking, development of communication tools and actions to increase membership. These developments would not have been possible without the strong commitment of the Association members, who have always participated in a professional and friendly way. I wish to thank all the members, and in particular those in the Council and various committees of our Association for all their support, efforts and advice.

Welcoming new people

In accordance with the statutes of the association, I (**Jannette Elwood**) assumed the Presidency at the November 2018 General Assembly taking over from **Thierry Rocher** who was President from 2016-2018. I would like to warmly thank Thierry for all his work for the Association over these last two years and also for his commitment to supporting me in preparing for the role of President. I have welcomed his advice and guidance as I have moved from one role to the next and I now wish him well for his adventures in the world of educational measurement.

We were fortunate to have two new members join us on the Council - the new Vice-President (President-elect), **Christina Wikström** (Umeå University, Sweden) and new Council member, **Andrej Novik** (SCIO, Czech Republic). They have both settled in well to the work of the Council - Christina supporting me on the work of the Presidency and the 2020 conference and Andrej becoming co-chair of the newly revamped Scientific Programme Committee (more details on this below).

Sadly during the year Gill Stewart (SQA, Scotland, Chair of the Publications Committee) had to step down from Council unexpectedly. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gill for all her hard work and commitment to the Association. We will miss her immensely. Lesley Wiseman, member of the PC, kindly stepped in to keep the work of the PC progressing until we were able to hold an election and welcome a new Council member. The election was held between 1st and 14th October 2019 with 2 members standing for election. Professor Deborah Chetcuti from Malta was duly elected Council Member with 80% of the votes.

Organising conferences

AEA-Europe works constantly on the organisation of the upcoming and future conferences.

The annual conference organised in **2018 in Arnhem-Nijmegen** was again very successful. Participants were very satisfied with the organisation and the content of the presentations.

We are eagerly looking forward to the next conference in **2019 in Lisbon**. The number of submissions is high, varied and of good quality. The poster sessions with short oral presentations and the symposium format will be continued, in addition we will be revisiting the Ignite session – as it was well-received in 2018. The **mobile App** will again be part of the SPC's provision for the conference providing 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 SPC and the Local Organising Committee - IAVE - have put together an excellent programme and have strived relentlessly to ensure that the conference is a success.

Our hosts for the 2019 **conference** are IAVE in **Lisbon** (Portugal) and in **2020** the conference will be hosted by Trinity College Dublin and Educational Research Centre in **Dun Laoghaire Dublin** (Ireland). The Vice- President and I have been working closely with the Local hosts, IAVE in Lisbon and also the local hosts TCD/ERC in Dublin - both meeting with the teams and their own local support groups. I have every confidence that both 2019 and 2020 conferences will be successful.

As for the future conferences, after the Arnhem conference, a **call for proposals for hosting the 2021 and 2022** conferences was sent out. The response was encouraging and we are delighted to announce that the Council have awarded the 2021 conference to the Institute of Education, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia. We look forward to working with our colleagues in Moscow in the planning of this future conference.

Enhancing the professionalism of the association

In 2019, the association continued to improve its **internal organisation** of the Association. We are all conscious that the Council and Committee members are already highly committed in their own professional responsibilities and that their work for the association is completely voluntary. For this reason, it is a priority to rationalise the procedures and rules of the association so as to derive maximum benefit from engagement of everyone involved, both in terms of professionalism and efficiency of the Association.

Reaching out and networking

Through the activities of the association, researchers, specialists and policy-makers come together to share their expertise and experiences in the field of assessment. The AEA-Europe's **Special Interest Group (SIG)** on **e-assessment** continues to grow in activities and visibility after its inauguration at the Prague conference in 2017 with an annual set of **webinars**. A decision was taken to close down the eAssessment SIG Facebook with all SIG membership now signed-up (automated) and comms through SIG web pages and twitter. An eAssessment SIG blog has also been developed and contributions I am sure will grow once the visibility of the blog increases at the Lisbon conference (see PC report below).

Another focus area is the strengthening of the association's educational assessment community via the **accreditation** process as well as the promotion of the network of **PhD students**. To this effect, we continue to work with members to think about accreditation and the benefits that having such accreditation can bring as well as encouraging more PhD students to become members of AEA-Europe.

Developing communication tools

During this past year, the association made active use of **social media** and **Newsletters** in its effort to keep promoting the activities of the association. Much progress has been made in spreading the work of our members or partners in the field of assessment. Nevertheless, we are continuously seeking ways to invite members to actively and regularly share their work throughout the year.

Increasing membership

In 2017, we started to establish a strategy in order to increase **membership**, including a reflection on the membership status and in 2018, we worked on targeting potential interested researchers and

specialists. In 2019 we gave continued to do this with discussions on the types of membership we offer as well as streamlining our subscription arrangements for ease of membership renewal. This is in line with the **Business Plan** which aims to have many European countries as possible are represented in AEA-Europe.

This, my first year as President, has been extremely rewarding as I have got to know the workings of the Association (again) very well. My aspirations for my second (last) year as president is to continue to make sure that the Association functions well, is sound in its governance activities and continues to be the main home for all its members in sharing and developing educational assessment activities and research.

I am convinced that over the next few years the association will continue to grow, to bring forth new ideas and develop the culture of educational assessment in Europe. I look forward to working with you all to make this happen!

Thank you all for your support and continued commitment and hard work for the Association - it would be nothing without you all!

Jannette Elwood

President: Association of Educational Assessment-Europe (2018-2020)

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.

To develop and enhance the core activities of the association

1. Organising successful conferences

- Quality

The annual evaluation of the quality of conferences (keynotes, presentation, structure) continues to be positive.

- Attendance

After increasing from 2016 to 2017, the number of attendees remained stable between 2017 and 2018 (270 to 272).

The number of submissions for the 2019 annual conference is slightly higher than in 2018:

In 2019: 166 submissions were evaluated - 106 were accepted as papers; 25 accepted as posters; 3 as discussion groups, 6 accepted as ignite presentations, 4 as symposia.

7 submissions were advised to be converted to poster, 10 were recommended to convert to poster or ignite.

Formats

For 2019, the conference presentation format "ignite session" is continued.

2. Developing communication tools and networking activities

- Social media: The use of social media has significantly increased (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook)
- Newsletter: There were 3 publications this year (2018-2019)
- Special Interest Group (SIG): Three webinars have been organised

3. Strengthening professional development

- Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award

2019 - 2 applications for this award reviewed by members on behalf of the PDC

- PhD network

A dedicated event for PhD students has been organised at the Lisbon Conference

- Accreditation

12 applications for accreditation as practitioner were received. This is becoming a recognised status for corporate members across Europe to enhance staff accreditation as assessment professionals; 3 applications were received for Fellow status and 1 for Associate status.

Plans

- To pilot a new format of presentation for the 2020 conference
- To continue and reinforce social media use and newsletter publications - possible consideration of an Annual Review publication - to be investigated.

- To develop and advertise the accreditation process - especially for Fellow status
- To encourage more applications to the Kathleen Tattersall New Research Award
- To develop more sustainable platform for PhD students to meet and network.

2. To increase the membership of the association

Analysing membership

Membership numbers

Current membership remained quite stable since last year, even though comparing membership numbers in November each year might not accurately reflect the yearly active membership.

Table 1. Membership

Membership	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Individual	132	139	151	133**	135	136
Corporate	41	42	41	37	35	37
Student	46	48	8*	10	4	13

* 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.

Defining a strategy to increase membership:

- Report on AEA-Europe membership
- The Publication Committee along with the treasurer and the secretariat have been working AEA-Europe membership. Several strategic actions have been proposed to increase the number and the diversity of the members of the association
- direct mailing/advertising with a new AEA-E flyer
- direct emailing of list of assessment scholars in countries not fully presented at the association looking at the cost of membership and membership packages, etc.
- investigating automated subscription systems as well as easier/electric ways to pay membership - to increase efficiencies of securing renewable memberships

General comments about membership from the Associations: 2018 survey of members:

- AEA-Europe attracts a number of individuals with both individual and corporate membership.
- AEA-Europe has a number of both individual and corporate members. However, benefits of the different membership packages need to be made more clear.
- Number of student members is very low. Membership needs to be made more attractive for post-graduate students and young researchers.
- Members remain in the association once they have joined. This can be an indication that they are happy with being members of the association.

REASONS FOR JOINING AEA-EUROPE

Members join AEA-Europe for a variety of reasons.

- Members emphasise the importance of forming part of a community of practice that enables them to share ideas, research and thoughts with individuals from different European countries.
- The Association also provides a good platform for networking and meeting colleagues and working on new ideas with people from across Europe.
- The Conference is currently also one of the main reasons why people join the association.
- The conference is well organised and provides a friendly, comfortable atmosphere where one can meet old friends and make new ones.

BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER OF AEA-EUROPE

There are a number of benefits of belonging to AEA-Europe. These benefits enhance the professional development of members. The benefits include:

- Being part of an assessment community and belonging to a group with an interest in assessment.
- Networking with colleagues from different European countries.
- Keeping up with research and developments in assessment.
- Being able to attend the annual conference which is friendly and welcoming.
- For accreditation.

Research Gate

In 2018 the Publication Committee worked with Research Gate to target potential members working in educational assessment from countries that are underrepresented within the association. This did not prove to be as effective as initially realised and no more effort into this activity will take place.

In addition the work in identifying specific educational assessment researchers, who have published articles in educational assessment journals to express interest in their work and to ask them to consider joining the association through a personal letter from the president was initially successful - but again not to the effect that was desired.

Discussions are ongoing with regard to ideas about how to increase membership. The awarding of the conference in 2021 to Moscow was a strategic decision which will enable the association to focus on gaining members from Russia and those surrounding countries that perhaps have not engaged with AEA-Europe to date.

Early career researchers

One of the other areas identified for improvement was around early career researchers (ECRS) and attracting more members and considering how best to support them. The Post-graduate reception has become a regular feature of the conference social events and again one is planned for Lisbon. The Publication Committee are investigating with ECRs ways to optimise interaction and networking for ECRs within the Association.

Plans

- To continue the discussions and activities about increasing membership

- To determine a set of strategic actions for the next following years
- To engage funding to that purpose if necessary
- To update the constitution around membership if necessary

To enhance standards of operationalisation of the association

Increasing efficiency and transparency of the organisation

Policy and Rules document

This document has been the focus of review and updating - it is continually edited and can be referenced by members from the secretariat.

Conference Handbook

The Conference handbook has been revised. The 2018 version is the latest version is available on the website. The 2018 version is sent to any prospective local hosts of conferences.

Audit committee

For the fourth year, an Audit Committee is responsible for auditing the accounts.

Hosting Process

An open call for hosting the 2021 and 2022 conferences was undertaken. A host - HSE, Moscow, - has been confirmed for 2021. A call for 2022 will be sent out within the next 12 months.

Developing robust tools

Internal organisation

Website

The new website set up in 2017 and has proved to be effective. Council papers are now uploaded onto the website to reduce paper usage at meetings.

The conference website for 2019 was hosted through the AEA-Europe website - this was in direct response to conference attendees feedback suggesting that having two places for information was confusing when booking/registering for conferences etc. Evaluation of this move will be taken through the conference evaluation questionnaire.

Conference organisation :

Registration / Submission system / Mobile App

A contract has been signed with an agency in order to take care of the conference website, the submission process, the registration process as well as the Mobile App. This integrated model could be used for future conferences. In keeping with this model the agency was also engaged for work of the Scientific Programme Committee and has proven very efficient and helpful (more details below). The agency has been engaged again for the next 3 years.

Plans:

- To continue updating internal organisation documents.
- To set up and confirm roles of Council members in the internal organisation

AEA-E Council Members and Activities

The Council has met four times since the last General Assembly (November 2018 in Nijmegen, January 2019 in London, May 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal and September 2019 in London). Between council meetings, the Council has had two Skype meetings, in March 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 2019. 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.

One Council member resigned in August 2019 due to personal reasons. An election process took place during the autumn of 2019 and we are pleased to announce that a new Council member, Deborah Chetcuti from Malta was appointed.

The current Secretariat and Treasurer have agreed to serve for another 4 years, as indicated in the association's constitution.

Table 2: Council Members and Terms of Office

Name	Position in the Council	Term of Office: Start	Term of Office: End	Number of Terms Fulfilled	Comment
Jannette Elwood (UK)	President	Nov 18	Nov 20	0	VP 2016 to 2018
Christina Wikström (Sweden)	Vice President	Nov 18	Nov 20	0	President 2020 to 2022
Alex Scharaschkin (UK)	Executive Secretary	Nov 18	Nov 22	1	
Cor Sluijter (Netherlands)	Treasurer	Nov 19	23	0	
Andrej Novik (Czech Republic)	Council Member	Nov 18	Nov 22	0	
Deborah Chetcuti (Malta)	Council Member	Nov 19	Nov 23	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 mainly via Skype and email and face-to-face at the annual conference in Prague and via Skype and email. 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.

Since the last annual meeting we introduced revised guidelines for the accreditations. The small changes were implemented to standardise the format of applications for Practitioners and Fellows. The revised guidelines identifies more clearly what should be included in the main document vs what to include as appendixes. Furthermore, a length limitation of 5 pages has been defined for the main document in the application. Hopefully, these changes will lower the threshold to apply and make the burden of review of applications easier. Since the last annual meeting we have received and evaluated 16 applications, all with a positive outcome (1 Associates, 12 Practitioners and 3 Fellows). A major challenge for the accreditation system is the dwindling number of active Fellows. In addition to do reviews of applications for accreditations, a robust corpus of Fellows is needed in order to work towards even more ambitious goals for positioning the AEA-Europe as a core organisation when it comes to providing a milieu for professional development for our members. We are very grateful for the efforts done by the Fellows over the last years. Most of them reply positively when asked to do a review, and they conduct their role carefully and give thoughtful evaluative statements and comments in their reports. In order to increase the number of Fellows the Council has reached out directly to a number of active members with backgrounds and professional profiles corresponding well with the criteria for the status of Fellow. However, the identification of potential Fellows was not done systematically. Certainly, there are more colleagues in our professional community whom we

would like to welcome to apply for accreditation.

The work with the new version of the Standards has not progressed as hoped during the last year. However, there is activity ongoing and the results will be presented at the annual conference in Lisbon

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 coordinated the procedure and engaged fellows to assess the New Researcher Award proposals for 2018 (see more details in the chapter on Awards and Accreditations).

The PDC also continues to organise a meet-and greet event for doctoral students visiting the conference. From 2017 this event has been co-hosted with an event for accredited members. We are still seeking to find an ideal format for this event, but believe this is a successful networking opportunity where our younger members are welcomed into our community, and where the Association is allowed to express our gratitude for the contributions from our accredited members.

The PDC announced one vacancy this autumn and we are happy to welcome XX as a new member, replacing Andrew Boyle. Andrew has been a member of the PDC for XX years,, and we would like to acknowledge his vital contribution for the committee, in particular as a person representing and voicing perspectives from the non-governmental assessment organisations of our community.

The PDC also organises the award for the best poster at the annual conference – with great help from the sponsor (CITO). Since 2016 the poster session has been organised by giving the presenters the possibility to have a 90 seconds oral presentation of their work. The PDC would like to acknowledge the role that Cor Sluijter has had as the chair and time keeper of the event. We believe this change in format is the direct reason for the substantial increase in the number of proposals for posters lately.

Publications Committee

Members

Gill Stewart (SQA, UK) – Chair (resigned July 2019)

Amina Afif (Luxembourg Government)

Deborah Chetcuti (University of Malta)

Mary Richardson (University College London)

Lesley Wiseman (Independent consultant)

Meetings and activities

Throughout Gill's time as Chair she made all committee members feel valued: encouraging and supporting them to develop the ideas that emerged from the committee's regular Skype meetings and its face-to-face meeting at the annual conference. Each of the members of the Publications Committee has a specific remit: Amina takes responsibility for publications such as the newsletter; Debbie's work is focused on research and strategies in relation to increasing membership of AEA-E;

Mary has a focus on communications, including the website and social media; and Lesley is responsible for Special Interest Groups (SIGs). A summary for each of these areas is provided below.

Publications

Amina has continued to prepare the regular newsletter to keep AEA-E members up to date with the latest news, with three editions published on the AEA-E website in the course of 2019. To generate content for these newsletters Amina identified potential contributors during the 2018 conference and invited them to contribute an article about their paper/poster, which resulted in a much higher number of articles than usual being published in the newsletter. However, the challenge of attracting members to contribute actively and regularly to the newsletter means that from 2020 the newsletter is to be replaced by a new 'annual review' publication, along with the posting of news items on the Association's news page on a rolling basis. The new publication will provide more in-depth coverage of the work of the Association and, with the approval of Council of Amina's proposed content, interviews with Council and committee members will be conducted during the 2019 conference or later by Skype. The annual review is intended to be highly engaging in terms of content and also design, to attract new members as well as inform existing members, and Vretta has kindly agreed to sponsor a professional design and layout for this new publication.

Membership

Deborah has continued to work on proposals for attracting new members to AEA-E. In the period leading up to the 2018 annual conference in Arnhem-Nijmegen, Deborah worked on a ResearchGate campaign intended to disseminate information about AEA-E and the annual conference amongst researchers and academics – a campaign which proved unsuccessful in attracting new members to the Association. A questionnaire was also developed for new members attending the 2018 conference, in order to explore what made individuals attend the conference and become members of AEA-E. Through this questionnaire and informal meetings with new members during the conference, it was established that individuals mainly join AEA-E on the recommendation of friends and colleagues or because their institution has a corporate membership. Based on this feedback, a flyer with information about AEA-E has been produced for dissemination amongst members and on social media, to create more exposure for the Association and highlight the benefits of membership. Deborah has also worked with Cor Sluijter on a proposal for new membership fees.

Communications

Mary has been very active in enhancing AEA-E's communication channels. The social media base for AEA-E is currently very strong with both Facebook (n=335) and Twitter (n=553) being used as a means for sharing information about the Association and, perhaps most importantly, sharing information about our interests, research and work. These social media platforms were used by Mary to actively promote AEA-E activities and especially its annual conference through a planned programme of publicity for this important event. An eAssessment SIG Facebook Group was used initially to provide a means of communicating with SIG members but the group was not very active and so was closed in August 2019, replaced by updated SIG pages on the AEA-E website with new content and the opportunity to sign up for SIG news. It is hoped that moving SIG interactions and focus into the AEA-E website will help to encourage traffic and interactions with potential new members of the Association. With a renewed focus on the website more generally in order to better engage and

communicate with members, Mary has worked with technical experts to improve its functionality and encourage more engagement with the site overall.

Finally, a new Student AEA Group was launched via Facebook this year: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/254983185320768/> Mary has purposefully left this group alone so that the students can manage themselves and, thus far, it looks promising as a way to encourage the new generation of assessment experts.

Special Interest Groups

Lesley has established a process, published on the website, which is designed to make it easy for Association members to propose new SIGs aligned with their interests. Members have so far expressed an interest in setting up SIGs relating to quantitative methods in assessment and to assessment cultures and history, but to date only the eAssessment SIG has been formally established.

Launched at the Prague conference, the eAssessment SIG is thriving with around 140 individual members. Its Steering Group currently comprises Martyn Ware (Chair), Rebecca Hamer, Caroline Jongkamp, Mary Richardson, Liam Simington and Lesley, and meets monthly by Skype. In the past year, it has organized webinars and conference events, set up a blog and provided SIG news to AEA-E members through articles in the newsletter, by email and through social media. The SIG Facebook page has recently been replaced by new SIG web pages with enhanced functionality upon which, along with twitter, SIG communications are now focused.

The SIG webinars are kindly hosted on UCL's online collaborative learning platform (facilitated by Mary) and downloads are available to those who are unable to attend the real time broadcasts. To add to the SIG's three webinar presentations in 2018, four webinars have been or will be presented in 2019, and others are already planned for 2020. These webinars are intended to be a membership benefit but it is hoped that any wider participation will raise the profile of AEA-E and lead to new members joining the Association.

The SIG is associated with a number of events at the annual conference in Lisbon, including a pre-conference workshop, eAssessment-themed paper sessions, an Ignite presentation on the SIG, a brief business meeting and other opportunities for SIG members to meet. Additional Steering Group members, bringing their new ideas and energy, will be sought at that time.

Scientific Programme Committee (SPC)

Members

Co-Chair: Stuart Shaw (Cambridge Assessment)

Co-Chair: Andrej Novik (SCIO)

Nico Dieteren (CITO)

Elisa de Padua (University of Cambridge)

Pedro Guilherme Rocha dos Reis (University of Lisbon)

Filomena Araujo (IAVE 2019)

Gerry Shiel (Dublin 2019)

Meetings and agenda

Business throughout the year was conducted mainly via Skype and email and face-to-face meeting at the annual conference and a meeting in Cambridge.

The main responsibility of the SPC was again to ensure the preparation of a quality and balanced programme for the annual conference.

Actions

This year we were able to build on Stuart Shaw's previous expertise, work, and commitment he has been kindly offering to the Association in previous years. However, for the first time, we were unable to use the valuable help of Sarah Maughan, who continues to advise us, but because of her workload she cannot actively participate in the creation of the programme. As the Council, we are aware that SPC is one of the core committees of the Association, so we decided to strengthen it and link it more closely with the organizing committees. Therefore, we have put out a call for further SPC members that can assist in its work in the future. This year we welcomed new members Elisa de Padua and Nico Dieteren. As a member of the Council and the Organizing Committee, Andrej Novik has extended the SPC to facilitate the smooth preparation of the annual conference. The SPC also welcomed the assessment expert from the host country - Pedro Rocha dos Reis - from the University of Lisbon as well as colleagues from Dublin - organizers of the next annual conference.

Thanks to the abundant help of Stuart Shaw and Nico Dieteren the SPC received a high number of quality reviewers who managed to evaluate a record number of submissions in time. A total of 40 reviewers participated in the evaluation process. Most of the reviews were completed by the deadline allowing timely preparation of the programme. As a result, a total of 166 submissions have been evaluated. Of these, 106 were accepted as paper; 25 accepted as posters; 3 as discussion group, 6 accepted as ignite presentation, 4 as symposium. 7 submissions were advised to be converted to poster, 10 were recommended to convert to poster or ignite. All submitters received a notification third week in June, well ahead of the deadline. Next work included construction of the programme. The SPC asked the Council to allocate a small budget for an in person meeting. The Treasurer has approved a budget of 1500 €.

As both Stuart Shaw and Elisa de Padua are based in Cambridge, a meeting was held there in July and kindly hosted by Cambridge Assessment. As result, SPC constructed a draft programme that was being finalized in the following weeks. The Council has made an agreement with Easy Conferences enabling EC staff to enter the programme into the EC system directly, replacing part of the work done by Sarah Maughan's colleagues in the past.

In the future, the SPC would like to build on this year's good experience of involving more people in the work of the Committee and continue to link as much as possible the work of the organizing committees and the SPC.

Annual Conferences

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

The 19th annual conference was held in the region Arnhem-Nijmegen in the Netherlands, and was hosted by Cito, a loyal and founding member of the Association of Educational Assessment – Europe. The theme of the Conference was “Building bridges to future educational assessment”. Cito formed a strong organizing team, with many co-workers involved in the conference preparations, which resulted in a very well organised conference. Cito also celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018, which brought an extra festive dimension to the conference. Among other things, very impressive musical performances by the Cito staff at the welcome reception and conference dinner!

The venue for the conference and the pre-conference workshops was Van der Valk Hotel in Nijmegen-Lent, a modern high quality conference hotel in the outskirts of the ancient and beautiful town Nijmegen. Many conference participants took the opportunity to explore both the countryside and neighbouring cities in their free time, where Nijmegen with its quaint town centre and many restaurants was a popular choice.

Preparation

The Cito conference organizing team took responsibility for most parts of the practical preparations. Easy conferences (<http://easyconferences.eu/>) was however contracted for supplying the technical software for the review process of the conference proposals, as well as the registration system, the website and the conference app. Members of the local conference organizing team were also involved in the preparations and planning of the scientific programme, in cooperation with the AEA-Europe Scientific Programme committee and Easy conferences.

The Conference Organizing Committee (COC) consisted of Jannette Elwood, Chair (Vice-President, AEA-Europe, Northern Ireland), Thierry Rocher (President, AEA-Europe, France), Nico Dieteren (Cito), Jacqueline Kaal - van Hagen (Cito), George MacBride (University of Glasgow, Scotland), Alex Scharaschkin (Executive Secretary, AEA-Europe, UK), Linda Wye (AEA-Europe Secretariat), Andrej Novik (AEA-Europe member, SCIO, Czech Republic and organiser of the 2017 conference).

The Scientific Programme Committee members were Stuart Shaw (Co-Chair, AEA-Europe member, Cambridge Assessment, UK), Sarah Maughan (Co-Chair, AEA-Europe member, AlphaPlus, UK), Frans Kleintjes (Cito), Theo Eggen (Cito), Gill Stewart (AEA Europe Council member, SQA, Scotland), Cor Sluijter (AEA-Europe Treasurer, Cito, Netherlands). This group put extensive work and effort into organising the peer review process of the proposals, communication with reviewers and presenters and in planning the structure and content of the programme, in cooperation with Easy Conferences.

In preparation for the conference, the Conference Organising Committee (COC) had nine (9) Skype meetings between January and November 2018. These meetings discussed progress and ensured good planning. In addition, the AEA-Europe Council held its May 2018 Council meeting in Arnhem-Nijmegen 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 Nico Dieteren, Jacqueline Kaal-van Hagen and Cor Sluijter visited the hotel in early September for an on-site conference planning and final review of facilities. The final testing of the conference App was carried out at the venue in October.

Interest

As with AEA-Europe Conferences generally, there was significant interest also in this conference and 116 submissions were received. After peer review, most of the submissions were accepted: 5 Pre Conference Workshops; 77 Open Papers; 16 Posters; 5 Discussion Groups; 1 Ignite Presentation (Consisting of 9 separate contributions) and 2 Symposia. Given this range of submissions it was agreed not to offer a keynote symposium as in 2017, but to add a 4th keynote address. Thus the 2018 programme had multiple parallel sessions.

New session formats were also introduced as a result of feedback that had been received from participants at previous conferences. During the opening day on the Thursday there was a mixture of keynote presentations, including the Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award presentation, the poster session and open paper sessions. The Friday's sessions were dedicated to open paper presentations and discussion groups as well as the general assembly. During the Friday there was an 'Ignite session' that proved very successful. Saturday's sessions were based on open paper sessions and keynote addresses. The number of participants were 272.

Social programme and venues

The conference welcome reception was held on Wednesday evening at CITO's offices. As well as a formal welcome to the conference by the President, and the Executive Council, there was a warm welcome to new delegates, current members and greetings to all returning participants to the conference. Two receptions were held on the second day of the conference at the historic medieval vaults of Arnhem; one for all doctoral students, and one for all accredited members of the association. Delegates of the conference were also offered an opportunity to visit the 'Airbourne at the Bridge' Museum.

The conference dinner on the evening of Friday 9th November was held on the "River Dream Boat", travelling along the Rhine, where the conference participants enjoyed a delicious buffet, dancing to a DJ, and, not the least, a much appreciated singing performances by Jaqueline Kaal-van Hagen and Cor Sluijter!

20th Annual Conference: Lisbon, Portugal, 6 – 9 November 2019

The 20th Annual Conference is hosted by IAVE, the Portuguese Assessment Board, and takes place in Lisbon. The theme of the Conference is "Assessment for Transformation: teaching, learning and improving educational outcomes". The venue for the Conference, including the pre-Conference workshops, will be the Lisboa Sana Hotel, a modern and exclusive conference hotel, centrally located and overlooking the historic S. Jorge's Castle and Eduardo VII's park. The Conference dinner will be held at the beautiful Montes Claros, "Lisbon's secret spot".

Lisbon is an interesting and fascinating city – it is one of the oldest capital cities in Europe, located on the mouth of the Tagus River. Occupied by different peoples – Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Visigoths and Muslims – the city was taken over in the 12th century by the Christians under King Afonso Henriques, with the support of European Crusaders. Since then, Lisbon has been the political, economic and cultural centre of Portugal. In the 16th century, due to the Portuguese Discoveries, Lisbon became a truly cosmopolitan city, inhabited and coveted by a huge diversity of peoples, languages and cultures. In November 1755, Lisbon was almost completely destroyed by an earthquake, a catastrophic event that

shocked the whole of Europe, and was partially rebuilt according to the plans of the Prime Minister, Marquês de Pombal – down town began to be known as Baixa Pombalina, at a walking distance from the Conference hotel. Currently, Lisbon is a business and political centre, as well as home to universities, educational institutes, schools, museums, monuments and cultural sites, including the ones listed as UNESCO World Heritage: the Monastery of the Jerónimos and Tower of Belém.

In order to ensure good planning, Thierry Rocher and Jannette Elwood visited Lisbon in April 2018 for the Conference organisation. During this visit, the venue for the conference was visited and confirmed. In May 2019 a council meeting was held in Lisbon, where one day was spent in meeting with the local organising committee. This also included a visit to the conference hotel to decide on breakout rooms etc and the Montes Claros where the conference dinner will be held, to evaluate and decide on practical details related to transportation, seating, menu and entertainment. In preparation for the conference, the Conference Organising Committee (COC) has eight (8) online meetings between January and October 2019. These meetings focused on progress of arrangements, and forward planning for the conference.

Also this year, the local organiser (IAVE) has formed a strong conference organising team with responsibility for most of the practical preparations, assisted by Easy Conferences for supplying the technical solutions for the website, the submission system, the planning of the programme and the conference app, in cooperation with the AEA-Europe Conference Organizing Committee (COC) and the AEA-Europe Scientific Programme committee.

The Conference Organizing Committee (COC) for the 2019 conference has consisted of Jannette Elwood, Chair (President, AEA-Europe, Northern Ireland), Christina Wikström (Vice-President AEA-Europe, Sweden), Alex Scharaschkin (Executive Secretary, AEA-Europe, UK), Andrej Novik (AEA-Europe council member, SCIO, Czech Republic), Linda Wye (AEA-Europe Secretariat), Thierry Rocher (former President of AEA-Europe, France), Natalia Nunes, Maria Borges, Amalia Costa, Rui Pires, Manuel Gomes (IAVE, Portugal), George MacBride (University of Glasgow, Scotland), Nico Dieteren and Jacqueline Kaal (Cito, the Netherlands, organizers of the 2018 conference in Nijmegen/Arnhem) and the organizers of the 2020 conference Gerry Shiel (Educational Research Centre, Ireland) and Damian Murchan (Trinity College, Ireland).

The Scientific Programme Committee members were Stuart Shaw (Co-Chair, AEA-Europe member, Cambridge Assessment, UK), Andrej Novik (Co-Chair, AEA-Europe council member, SCIO, Czech Republic), Nico Dieteren (Cito, the Netherlands), , Elisa de Padua (University of Cambridge), Pedro Guilherme Rocha dos Reis (University of Lisbon) and Gerry Shiel (ECR, Dublin Conference 2020)

This group has put extensive work and effort into organising the peer review process of the proposals, communication with reviewers and presenters and in planning the structure and content of the programme, in cooperation with Easy Conferences.

Interest

There has been a steady increase in the interest in the AEA-Europe conferences, and the 2019 conference proved no exception from this trend; the number of submissions exceeded all previous conferences, as well as the number of registrations. A total of 166 submissions were evaluated. Of these, 106 were accepted as papers; 25 accepted as posters; 3 as discussion groups, 6 accepted as ignite presentation and 4 as symposium. Seven (7) submissions were advised to be converted to a poster, 10

were recommended to convert to poster or ignite. Thus the 2019 programme will have multiple parallel sessions as in previous years. By the close of registration, 336 registrations had been received.

21st Annual Conference: Dublin/Dun Laoghaire, Ireland, 6 – 9 November 2020

The 21st Annual Conference will be hosted by Trinity College Dublin and the Educational Research Centre, Dublin, and will take place in Dún Laoghaire. Dún Laoghaire, a coastal suburb of Dublin, is only a few kilometers from the city centre, and is situated in a peaceful area that combines miles of wave-lapped coastline with rugged mountain terrain. It is one of many charming towns and villages along the Dublin Bay coastline, with many cultural attractions and delights such as ancient castles and harbours, boutiques, and some of the best restaurants in Ireland.

The theme of the Conference will be “Assessment for Changing Times: Opportunities and Challenges.” This will give participants an opportunity to discuss a range of issues such as digital assessment, assessing 21st century competencies and obstacles to implementing changes in assessment.

The venue for the conference, including the pre-conference workshops, will be the Royal Marine Hotel. The magnificent Royal Marine is situated in the centre of Dún Laoghaire. The hotel overlooks Dublin Bay and has a genuine historic and luxurious feel, but with the facilities and convenience of a modern conference venue. The view from the hotel is breath-taking, and conference participants will be able to rest their eyes on passing ships on the Irish Sea. Dun Laoghaire is easy to access from the airport, with frequent buses stopping just outside the hotel. There are also frequent trains and buses to nearby towns along the coast and to Dublin city centre (only 20 minutes away), making it easy to travel for conference participants who want to explore the area in their free time. The evening before the conference, participants will be invited to a welcome reception in the iconic Long Room of the Old Library in Trinity College, in the heart of Dublin city centre.

The planning of this conference is well underway and a conference organizing team has been formed. A first meeting took place in July 2019 when Jannette Elwood and Christina Wikström visited Dublin and Dún Laoghaire to meet with the local organisers Damian Murchan and Gerry Shiel from Trinity College Dublin and the Educational Research Centre, Dublin, and representatives from the local conference organising agency ‘Advantage PCO’. During this visit, the venues for the Conference and the welcome reception were visited and confirmed.

Awards and Accreditations

Kathleen Tattersall New Assessment Researcher Award 2019

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 evaluation committee concluded that this year's prize should be awarded to Dr. Aisling Keane from Queen's University Belfast (Northern Ireland). Dr. Keane will present her research as one of the keynotes at the Lisbon 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

The PDC will thank the jury members for their continued support with reviewing applications for the award over several years.

Poster Award

At the 19th annual AEA-E conference in Arnhem-Nijmegen, 14 posters were presented, following the plenary format that was introduced at the 17th conference. In this format, poster presenters have to give a pitch of maximally 90 seconds on their posters after which attendees can walk up to the posters that have drawn their interest. All conference delegates were invited to rate the posters – either by a paper form or through the conference app- against specified criteria and to nominate up to three posters for the best poster award. The PDC counted the votes and proclaimed the winner. The poster “Uncovering the Disparities in Educational Attainment across Urban and Rural Locations in Northern Ireland”, presented by Gemma Cherry from Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom, won the poster award. The award was traditionally sponsored by Cito, the Netherlands and consisted of a one day visit to Cito, expenses paid. Purpose of the visit was to share and discuss the research presented and its outcomes with Cito research staff and consulting Cito specialists on the research topic of the poster. Gemma visited Cito in 2019.

Accredited Members 2019

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:

Agnes Bergbom

Christina Orädd

Gunnar Wästle

Ingela Eriksson

Peder Öberg

Tobias Lundberg

Mikael Hägglund

Michael Nordvall

Maria Johansson

Håkan Montén

Helena Karlsson

Sarah Bacon

Associate:

Jennifer Morrison

Fellow:

Nico Dieteren

Rolf. V Olsen

Damian Murchan

The number of applications increased since last year, but we will still work hard to communicate the relevance of the accreditation in order to see an increase in applications. In particular more fellows are needed.

Financial Report

The financial report over 2018 is presented below. First, in table 3a, the operating budget for 2018 is presented. This is followed by a profit and loss overview of the Arnhem-Nijmegen conference in table 3b. The balance sheet is presented next in table 4. All overviews will be explained briefly, starting with the operating budget below.

Unlike financial reports for earlier years, a direct overall comparison of the results for 2018 and 2017 is possible. This has to do with the fact that both for the 2017 and 2018 conference, the registration was outsourced and the conference itself was directly hosted by respectively SCIO and Cito. The Prague 2017 conference entries show total income and expenditure as do the Arnhem-Nijmegen conference entries. For the sake of completeness a more detailed profit and loss overview of the 2018 conference has been incorporated in this report.

Like previous years, a comparison of the financial report for 2018 with the budget for 2018 and the financial report for 2017 shows no striking differences. As income is concerned, the operating budget makes clear that the revenues from subscription fees are slightly decreasing. This means that the campaign that was launched through Researchgate to reach new potential members has not been successful. Another negative issue is that the matter of uncollectable debtors remains unsolved. Regrettably, there still is a relatively large number of members that have not paid their membership fee for one or more years. Those members that have not yet paid their fees for 2016 onwards will be expelled at the 2019 general assembly. To start with solving this issue, a proposal will be presented to the General Assembly during the 2019 Conference. Not all costs have stayed within budget. The costs for council meetings are higher than budgeted. This has to do with changes in the composition of the council. Travel and subsistence costs depend to some extent on the countries of residence of the council members. Changes in composition of the council therefore lead to changes in these costs. Note however that the total costs for all committees together hardly exceed the budget. Also the costs for website maintenance are somewhat higher than budgeted. All in all for 2018 we had a small deficit of almost € 1.300.

The profit and loss overview of the Arnhem-Nijmegen conference in table 3b gives a summary of the income and expenditure having to do with organizing the conference. The Arnhem-Nijmegen conference all in all had a positive financial result of € 16.893, which is higher than the financial results of the Prague (€ 12.816) conference and comparable with the financial results of the Limassol (€ 16.600) conference. Bear in mind that the financial result of the Prague conference, like the Limassol conference, would have been better, if the bank charges having to do with subscriptions for the conference (€ 3.014) would have been placed under the debit entry for general expenditure, as was the case with the Glasgow conference. Note that profit from the conferences is relatively stable for the last years.

The total income of sponsoring of the Arnhem-Nijmegen Conference (€ 12.813) comes from our new corporate member Vretta (conference bags and lanyards, exhibition stand and flyer; € 7.063), IAVE (Gala Dinner € 1.750), Cambridge Assessment (Pen and paper, exhibition stand, flyer; € 1.250), AQA Education (Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award; exhibition stand € 1.050), Grademaker (exhibition stand with monitor; € 650, Springer (exhibition stand; €550) and Pearson (Phd/Fellows event; € 500),

Table 3a; Operating Budget (in Euros)

	Report 31-12-2017	Budget 2018	Report 31-12-2018
Income			
2018 Subscriptions (Corporate)	22.200		22.200
2018 Subscriptions (Individual)	9.100		9.100
2018 Subscriptions (Student)	440		120
Subscriptions	[31.740]	35.000	[31.420]
Uncollectable debtors	-5.160		-5.370
Conference Registration Income	121.743		121.125
Conference Sponsoring	8.800		12.813
Interest	10	0	10
	157.133		159.998
Expenditure			
Council Meetings	9.591	10.000	13.224
Administration (Secretariat and Treasury)	18.730	20.000	18.730
Conference Expenditure	117.728		117.045
Professional Development Committee	761	3000	345
Publications Committee	0 ¹	3000	2.157
Website maintenance	14.650	4000	4.515
New researcher award	500	500	500
Audit Committee	0	300	0
Promotional activities	0		4.320 ²
Miscellaneous	0	100	254
Bank Charges; Gain/Loss Foreign Exchange	339	1000	282
	162.299		161.373
Surplus	-5.166		-1.375

¹ The Publications Committee has been conducting its business through regular Skype meetings, telephone and e-mail in 2017.

² Costs of the ResearchGate campaign

Table 3b; Profit and loss overview Arnhem-Nijmegen conference (in Euros)

Income	Euro per unit	#	Total
<i>Early Registration fees</i>			
AEA-Europe Full Member Fee	400	115	46.000
Non-Member Fee	470	51	23.970
AEA-Europe Student Member Fee	245	10	2.450
Participating Sponsor	200	11	2.200
Registrations covered by AEA Europe	400	3	1.200
<i>Late Registration fees and other income</i>			
AEA-Europe Full Member Fee	465	29	13.485
Non-Member Fee	535	36	19.260
AEA-Europe Student Member Fee	310	3	930
Registrations covered by AEA Europe	465	4	1.860
Cancellations		[6]	500
No shows/registered but covered by AEA Europe		[17]	
	Number of attendees:	262	
Pre-Conference Workshop Fee	100	73	7.300
Conference dinner accompanying persons	60	9	540
Accompanying person package	200	1	200
Hardcopy 2017 Conference Handbook	30	12	360
Miscellaneous ³			870
Sponsoring			12.813
			133.938
<hr/>			
Expenditure	Euro per unit	#	Total
EasyConferences – online registration, assistance etc.	18	284	5.112
Conference website			1.000
Mobile conference app			2.400
VAT 19% Easyconferences ⁴			1.617
Bank charges (2,5%) Easyconferences ⁵			2.930
Organizational Costs Cito			20.000
Venue and gala dinner costs			69.923
Conference bags & lanyards			3.564
Activity costs Cito ⁶			7.363
Miscellaneous ⁷			3.136
			117.045
<hr/>			
Surplus			16.893

Table 4; Balance sheet as at December 31, 2018 (in Euros)

³ Social events and payment on the spot for workshops

⁴ 19% of € 8.512 (€ 5.112 + conference website costs (€ 1.000) + mobile application (€ 2.400))

⁵ 2,5 % of € 117.195 (€ 128.065 - €1.200 - € 1.860 - € 370 - € 7.810 (no shows))

⁶ Conference insurance; transport to conference dinner; presents; banners; printing programme booklets; etc.

⁷ Several expenses key notes; one night stay compensation workshop leaders; social events

<u>Assets</u>	Bank (Rabobank)	5.882
	Deposit	5.015
		10.897
<u>Receivables</u>	Debtors	70.061
<u>Payables</u>	Subscriptions paid in advance	0
<u>Sundry</u>		33.306
Net Assets		114.263
<u>Equity</u>	Retained profits (31-12-2017)	115.683
	Surplus / Deficit 2018	-1.375
Total Equity		114.263

The total amount of assets at December 31, 2018 is € 114.263. At December 31, 2017 the total amount of assets was €107.617.

The receivables consist of interest for 2018 still to be received (€ 9,46), outstanding subscriptions for 2017 and 2018 (€ 5.350 and € 10.380) and the final part of the income from the Arnhem-Nijmegen conference paid by EasyConferences on January 3 2019 (€ 54.120,84). Sundry refers to items that have been paid in 2018 but relate to 2019 (e.g. conference costs that have been paid in 2018 for the 2019 Lisbon conference), or to items that should have been paid in 2018 but were/are to be paid in 2019. Sundry for 2018 amounts to € 33.306 consisting of advance payments to IAVE for securing the hotel, conference venue and the promotional video (€ 52.036) and costs for the secretariat and treasury in 2018 paid in 2019 (9.930 AQA and -€ 8.800 Cito).

Proposed Business Plan 2019-2021

The Business Plan as presented in last year's annual report has been updated again. The Business Plan 2019-2021 as presented in this annual report is comparable to the Business Plans of the last years. Like its predecessors, it is based on the principle that the Association has to maintain reserves that are at least equivalent to the funding of 18 months of normal activities (council and committee meetings and a reasonable amount to be used as deposits for conference arrangements).

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 2019-2021 are, as always, based on the structural financial results of the last years and on the assumption that no major incidents will take place.

Table 5 Business Plan 2019-2021; Budgets

	2019	2020	2021
Income			
Subscriptions	35.000	36.500	38.000
Conference revenue	15.000	16.250	17.500
	50.000	52.750	55.500
Expenditure			
Council	14.000	14.000	14.000
Administration (secretariat and treasury)	18.730	18.730	18.730
Scientific Programme Committee	1.500	1.500	1.500
Professional Development Committee	2.000	2.000	2.000
Communications Committee	1.500	1.500	1.500
New Researcher Award	500	500	500
Audit Committee	300	300	300
Website/software	5.000	5.000	5.000
Bank charges/gain loss foreign exchange	1.000	1.000	1.000
Promotional activities	2.000	2.000	2.000
Participation fund	5.000	5.000	5.000
Miscellaneous	100	100	100
	47.630	48.900	48.900
Annual surplus (deficit)	-1.630	1.120	3.870

Note that:

- The budget for the council has been increased based on the financial results in 2018.
- In the second half of 2018 a campaign was launched through Researchgate to reach new potential members and attendees for the 2018 conference. However, this campaign did not lead to an increase in the number of memberships, which is why the Council decided not to repeat this campaign in 2019. Still, some budget has been reserved for promotional activities.
- Subscriptions and conference revenues for 2020 and 2021 have been increased in anticipation of an increase of subscription fees to be decided upon in the General Assemblée in Lisbon.
- The budgets for several committees have been lowered, because committees tend to conduct their business more and more through digital or telephonic conference calls and e-mail.
- Budget for the Scientific Programme Committee has been added in order to facilitate the assembly of the conference programme.
- Since 2017 a provision is made of €5.000 to the Participation Fund that is meant to support attendance at the annual conference for members for whom the costs of attending would otherwise be prohibitive.