



# AEA-Europe Annual Report 2020

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**The Council of AEA-Europe**

October 2020

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## Introduction 2020

My second year of being President of AEA-Europe has been impacted by COVID19 global health pandemic that has affected us all. After our very successful conference in Lisbon in November 2019, I would never have envisaged writing this annual report within the context of such a pandemic and with no annual AEA-Europe conference on the horizon; but such is life and the Association has been doing its best to keep activities going during this time as well as seek other ways for us to meet and come together - more of this below.

The 2019 year was a very productive year: the organisation of, and successful completion of the Lisbon (2019) conference. This was a really great success; our best attended conference to date and we thank our hosts, IAVE, for giving us such a great event in the beautiful city of Lisbon. We also spent a lot of effort and time on the preparations for the Dublin (2020) conference and we thank our hosts there - Trinity College Dublin and the Educational Research Centre Dublin for all their efforts in getting the initial work off the ground. We also enhanced the sub-committee structure of Council with new volunteers involving themselves in the work of the Association as well as improving our 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 with enthusiasm and professionalism. 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, we had elections in the Spring of 2020 to elect a new council member and also a new Vice President (President-Elect). We were very fortunate to attract a good field of candidates for the new Council member position and after elections, we are delighted to have **Elena Papanastasiou** (Cyprus) join us on the Council. Elena's election and membership of Council will be ratified at the November 2020 General Assembly.

We were also extremely fortunate to have a new Vice-President elected as well. **Therese Hopfenbeck** (England and Norway!) will join us on Council and Therese's election and position of Vice-President (President-elect) will be ratified at the November 2020 General Assembly.

I wish them both well as they settle into the work of the Council - Therese will support Christina on the work of the Presidency and the 2021 conference organisation and Elena will become Chair of the Professional Development Committee (more details on this below).

We also welcomed, late in 2019, **Deborah Chetcuti** (Malta) to the Council. Debbie's election was an extraordinary election as a Council Member (Gill Stewart, Scotland)) had to resign her membership of the Council at short notice. Debbie took up her place at the November General Assembly and has been very successfully guiding the Publications Committee (PC) as Chair throughout 2020 (details of the PC's activities below).

So, 2020 is a changeover year for Council Members and the President. With the election of Therese as Vice-President we will see the departure of myself (**Jannette Elwood**) as President and the transition of **Christina Wikstrom** from Vice-President to President. I wish Christina all the very best in this role, which I know she will carry out with her usual good humour and thoughtful insights as well as her never-

waiving commitment to the Association, having been a very early supporter of the work of AEA-Europe and a strong advocate for the Association's benefits and opportunities. I have worked with Christina in relation to AEA-Europe for nearly 20 years and I have enjoyed working with her again over these last 2 years as President and Vice-President to bring you the conference in Lisbon, the Online Festival in November 2020 and the 22nd Conference in Dublin in 2021. I have every confidence that she will diligently guide and lead the Association into its next phase in order to secure its future and longevity.

With the election of Elena as Council Member and incoming Chair of the Professional Development Committee (PDC) we will see the departure of **Rolf Vegar Olsen**, Council Member and Chair of the PDC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rolf for all his hard work and commitment to the Association, especially his work with colleagues on the PDC and for guiding the development of the Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher award as well as the Association's accreditation scheme. I personally would like to thank him for his support of me as President and for his sage guidance and input; it has been a real pleasure getting to know Rolf through the work of the Council and I wish him well with his own research and professional activities in the coming years.

### Organising conferences

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

We had a very successful conference in **2019 in Lisbon**. The number of submissions was high, varied and of good quality. The poster sessions and the Ignite sessions continue to be well-received. The **mobile App** was again part of the SPC's provision for the conference allowing for access to the conference programme, planning attendance at sessions, voting for the best poster and a new social media function to plan meet-ups and chat. The SPC and the Local Organising Committee - IAVE - put together an excellent programme and worked relentlessly to ensure that the conference was a great success.

Then in **2020** the COVID19 pandemic hit and unfortunately the conference to be hosted by Trinity College Dublin and Educational Research Centre in **Dun Laoghaire Dublin** (Ireland) had to be postponed. The Vice- President and I worked closely with the local hosts TCD/ERC in Dublin with regard to planning for them to host the 2021 conference instead. This they agreed to and we are very grateful to them for this accommodation. We had also awarded the 2021 conference to our colleagues in the Institute of Education, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia and they too have very graciously agreed to shift the conference they will host to 2022.

The **2020** conference became the **AEA-Europe Online Festival**. This has proved to be a very successful idea which gained lots of interest from the membership. The Festival was superbly supported by the Scientific Programme Committee under the joint chairs Andrej Novik and Stuart Shaw as well as the professional services support of EasyConferences who worked with us to adapt their support from the normal conferences to the technical support for an online event. We are grateful to all who have made this event come to pass. Meeting online in 2020 was inevitable, but learning from this event will enable the Association to be flexible and more creative around its events as well as looking to support other smaller meetings throughout the year in between conferences - I look forward to seeing us develop in this way.

As for the future conferences, for **2023 and 2024**, the AEA-Europe Council will put out a **call for proposals for hosting these** conferences in late spring of 2021. We very much encourage members to talk with Council over the next few months if they are interested in hosting a future conference.

### Enhancing the professionalism of the association

In 2020, 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. We also welcomed the formation of a new SIG - **Assessment Cultures** - and we look forward to seeing the activities and events it intends to pursue and thank them for taking on this activity on behalf of the Association.

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 has had a review of its ways of communicating and there are preparations and plans to develop the website and make more active use of **social media** platforms in an effort to keep promoting the activities of the Association. The PC (see below) has been working on the development of a new website. Council agreed to an amount of money to be used for this purpose. The rationale behind this was that the way in which we had to work in 2020 - more remotely - made the case for a new and refurbished website much more compelling. We hope the Association will agree that this was a worth-while spend. 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 and 2020 we 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 as many European countries as possible represented in AEA-Europe.

## Presidents Note

This was my last year as President, and notwithstanding the pandemic and the postponement of the 2020 conference, my time 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 were to continue to make sure that the Association functioned well, was sound in its governance activities and continued to be the main home for all its members in sharing and developing educational assessment activities and research. I feel I can step-down with these aspirations realised.

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 continuing to work with you all to make this happen - even from the side-lines!

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 was 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.

The 2020 Conference had to be postponed due to the COVID19 pandemic. Hence, there is no data for 2020 (see above description of the AEA-Europe Festival for 2020)

#### 2. Developing communication tools and networking activities

- Social media: The use of social media has significantly increased (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook)

- Newsletter: we are moving the newsletter onto the redesigned website to enhance its range of activities and also to encourage members to use the new website.

- Special Interest Group (SIG): We now have 2 SIGs (E-Assessment and Assessment Cultures) and members are always encouraged to suggest other groups that might be of interest to the association.

#### 3. Strengthening professional development

- Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award

2020 - 2 very qualified applications for this award reviewed by members on behalf of the PDC

- PhD network

A dedicated event for PhD students has been organised during the AEA-Europe Festival

- Accreditation

So far in 2020 we have received and successfully evaluated one Associate and one Practitioner

### Plans

- To refresh the Association’s website in order to make Association’s main communication tool more attractive and easier to use on mobile devices
- To continue and reinforce social media use as a quick and easy way to communicate with members and wider world
- To develop and advertise the accreditation process - especially for Fellow status
- To encourage more applications to the Kathleen Tattersall New Research Award
- To develop a more sustainable platform for PhD students to meet and network.

## 2. To increase the membership of the association

Analysing membership

Membership numbers

Current membership has increased slightly since last year, even though comparing membership numbers in November each year might not accurately reflect the yearly active membership.

*Table 1. Membership*

Membership	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Individual	139	151	133**	135	136	145
Corporate	42	41	37	35	37	40
Student	48	8*	10	4	13	14

\* 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 come 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 on AEA-Europe membership. Several strategic actions have been proposed to increase the number and the diversity of the members of the association

Improved the AEA-Europe website to make joining, renewing and paying for membership a lot easier.

- 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 clearer.
- 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.

Discussions are continuous with regard to ideas about how to increase membership. The awarding of the conference in 2022 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 one is planned for the 2020 Virtual Festival.

#### 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 and is available on the website. The 2018 version is sent to any prospective local hosts of conferences. This will be updated in 2020-21 to reflect the use of technology in future conferences.

#### **Hosting Process**

An open call for hosting the 2021 and 2022 conferences was undertaken. A host - HSE, Moscow, - has been confirmed for 2021 and will now host in 2022 as Dublin kindly agreed to the postponed 2020 conference being situated there in November 2021.

#### **Audit committee**

The Audit Committee is responsible for auditing the accounts. The audit committee reports to the General Assembly each November on the state of the accounts of the Association. The Treasurer of the Association reports annually to the Audit Committee

#### **Internal organisation**

##### **Website**

A new website was set up in 2017 and has proved to be effective. However, The PC reviewed the website - for functionality and use and decided that after three years, a re-fresh was needed. The Council agreed to this and the PC have been working with BigPig Web Design company to refresh and update the site (see PC update below).

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. The 2020 conference was also set to be hosted through the AEA-Europe website. AEA-Europe continues to work with EasyConferences on supporting conference activities. This has proven to be a solid working relationship with good support for members with regard to annual conference registration etc.

#### **Conference organisation:**

##### **Registration / Submission system / Mobile App**

The contract was renewed with EasyConferences in order to take care of the conference website, the submission process, the registration process as well as the Mobile App. This integrated model was used for the 2019 and 2020 conferences and will be used for future conferences. In keeping with this model EasyConferences also supported the work of the Scientific Programme Committee which

proved to be very efficient and helpful, especially in production of the programme and timetable and in getting this out earlier to members (more details below). EasyConferences has been engaged again for the next 2 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 once, face to face in January 2020 and four times virtually since the last General Assembly in November 2019 in Lisbon.

The main points discussed during these meetings were:

- Cancellation of the AEA-Europe conference in Dublin 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Organisation of the Virtual Festival to take place in November 2020
- 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 2020. 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.

**Table 2: Council Members and Terms of Office up to November 2020**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position in the Council</b>	<b>Term of Office: Start</b>	<b>Term of Office: End</b>	<b>Number of Terms Fulfilled</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Jannette Elwood (UK)	President	Nov 18	Nov 20	0	Term of office finishes November 2020
Christina Wikström (Sweden)	Vice President	Nov 18	Nov 20	0	Presidential term begins November 2020
Therese Hopfenbeck (UK and Norway)	Vice President	Nov 20	Nov 22		Presidential term starts Nov 22
Alex Scharaschkin (UK)	Executive Secretary	Nov 18	Nov 22	1	
Cor Sluijter (Netherlands)	Treasurer	Nov 19	Nov 23	1	
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	Term of office finishes Nov 20
Elena Papanastasiou (Cyprus)	Council member	Nov 20	Nov 22		Term of office starts Nov 20

## AEA-E Committees

### Professional Development Committee (PDC)

#### Members

- Rolf Vegar Olsen (University of Oslo, Norway). Chair
- Bas Hemker (CITO, Netherlands)
- Shakeh Manassian PSI Services, UK)
- Elena Papanastasiou (University of Nicosia, Cyprus)
- Stéphanie Berger (IBE, Switzerland) - term finished April 2020
- Lydia Townsend (UCL, UK) - term started April 2020

#### Meetings and agenda

Business throughout the year was conducted mainly via Skype and email and face-to-face at the annual conference in Lisbon. 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 possibly 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.

Over the last year we have applied the revised guidelines for the accreditations that were recently introduced. Our experience is that the revision has been helpful, both by identifying more clearly what should be included in the main document and by introducing a lengthy limitation. Our impression is that applications reviewed through 2019-20 have increased their focus on the parts explicitly being evaluated - leaving the more detailed aspects of applicants' experiences and biographies to appendixes. Since the last annual meeting we have received and evaluated 2 applications, both with a positive outcome (1 Associate, 1 Practitioner). A major challenge for the accreditation system is still 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 community for professional development for our members. We are as always 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 progress on the work with the new version of the Standards is still challenging, and renewed efforts will be made over the next period. Since then some interesting initiatives have been made which will be useful for us to relate to in this work, for instance the Class Assessment Task Force established by the NCME some years ago, still working to establish standards for classroom assessment - an aspect of assessment which is largely neglected in the Standards of our Association.

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 2019 (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. We are grateful for the continued support by Pearson for this event!

The PDC announced one vacancy this winter and we are happy to welcome Lydia Townsend (UCL, UK) as a new member, replacing Stephanie Berger. Stephanie has been a member of the PDC for many years, and we would like to acknowledge her vital contribution to the committee, in particular as the person representing and voicing perspectives from the PhD student membership of the association.

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 Sluiter 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

Deborah Chetcuti (University of Malta)

Amina Afif (Pedagogue & Intuitive Life Coach)

Judith Gracey (AQA, UK)

Mary Richardson (University College London)

Lesley Wiseman (University of Glasgow)

## Meetings and activities

Members of the Publications Committee (PC) had regular online meetings. Meetings were held once a month, in order to discuss activities and actions required. The PC also welcomed a new member, Judith Gracey from AQA. Thanks are due to all PC members who were highly committed and dedicated.

One of the main tasks taken on by the PC for 2019/20 was to discuss and implement the update of the AEA-E website. PC members dedicated a great deal of time and effort to this ongoing project, aimed at enhancing the website as a tool to encourage greater networking among current members and attract new members to the Association.

Each of the members of the PC has a specific remit: Amina takes responsibility for the news feed; Mary has a focus on communications, through social media; Lesley is responsible for Special Interest Groups (SIGs); and Judith is responsible for communications through the website. A summary of the activities undertaken by members of the Publications Committee is provided below:

## The Website

All members of the PC were involved in the discussions regarding the refreshing of the AEA-E website, together with Dave Shipston, the web designer. PC members discussed reasons for refreshing the website and these were based on their own perceptions and feedback obtained from colleagues. These included:

- It is not easy to navigate the website.
- It is not very attractive and does not encourage individuals to go back to the site.
- The content is not very well organized and has inconsistent presentation.
- The content is not always updated.
- There is a members' login but this does not offer additional benefits to members.
- It is too text heavy and there are very few images.

There are a number of advantages to having a refreshed website:

- It can help with the branding of the Association and give the Association a new and modern image. This will hopefully attract new members and encourage current members to visit the website more.
- A great website encourages individuals, whether they are members or not to re-visit the website and get information and news about the Association.
- The website can act as a means of communication with and between members of the Association with updates re news items, resources, and information about Association conferences, SIG and other events, and an Association blog.
- The website can have a sign-up box for members so that they can receive emails and updates in order to avoid the current situation of members not receiving emails. Corporate members can encourage individuals in their corporation to sign up.
- The new website can provide more benefits for members. Currently, colleagues have commented that the only benefit they get out of joining the Association is a reduction in the

conference fee. A members' only section which includes short videos, opportunities to attend webinars, content from the SIGs, a blog, resources, and links to resources or experts might be an incentive and membership benefit that will encourage more to become members.

Judith Gracey led a review of the existing website navigation and content and proposed a new content structure to the committee. This focused on improving user experience with two main audiences defined, i.e. existing members of the Association, and prospective members and interested others (teachers, academics, policy makers). Response to a Feedback form revealed that respondents had proposed that the site should convey the AEA-E brand as: inclusive, professional, sociable, community-focused, trustworthy, friendly and creative. In May the committee discussed and approved the proposed revisions to the current site structure and agreed that resources should be requested to enable a redesign, working with Dave Shipston.

Following approval from Council members, next steps involve finalising the redesign and new navigational structure and the creation of new content for the site. It will also be important to develop a communication strategy to promote the changes to members. This work is ongoing.

### **News feed**

After the last newsletter in November 2019, ideas were put forward to either replace the newsletter by a new 'annual review' publication and/or post news items on the Association's news page on a rolling basis while also adding richer content to the Association website. The second option was selected, in other words the newsletter content would be replaced with news items posted regularly on the website (including covering the different activities and work undertaken by the Association) and new, richer content would be added to the website (such as in-depth interviews) .

With the parallel discussions related to refreshing the AEA-E website, the Publications committee considered it timely to start off the news feed on the home page of the new website, to be launched during autumn 2020. As previous editor of the newsletter, Amina will contribute actively to this section of the website and to developing, new, richer content for the site.

### **Membership**

Deborah has continued to work on proposals for attracting new members to AEA-E. Work on the website is in fact intended to attract new members to AEA-E and provide further motivation for current members to renew their membership.

### **Communications**

The AEA-E's social media channels continue to thrive and we enjoy a range of discussions, sharing of ideas and communicating our messages online. The social media base for AEA-E is currently very strong with both Facebook (n=388) and Twitter (n=654) being used as a means for sharing information about

the Association and, perhaps most importantly, sharing information about our interests, research and work.

Twitter is definitely our most useful means of communication and that is unsurprising as most learned/professional societies find that tweeting out short messages is much more beneficial than posting on Facebook. It is partly due to the fact that for many people, Facebook is their family/friends means of communication and so they don't see it in a professional context. However, it remains important that we retain the presence we have in all new media. 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. With a renewed focus on the website more generally in order to better engage and communicate with members, Mary is hoping that the social media channels will be able to feed into the website and improve members' interactivity.

### Special Interest Groups

An AEA-E Assessment Cultures SIG is currently being developed by a Steering Group comprising Eleanor Andressen, Isabel Nisbet, Stuart Shaw, Lise Vikan Sandvik, Sverre Tveit, Andrew Watts (Chair) and Lesley Wiseman. This new SIG will be formally launched at the half-day session it is organising as part of a suite of AEA-E online events which this year will replace the usual November conference.

The AEA-E eAssessment SIG, launched at the Prague conference in November 2017, continues to thrive. Its Steering Group currently comprises Rebecca Hamer, Caroline Jongkamp, Mary Richardson, Liam Simington, Martyn Ware (Chair) and Lesley Wiseman. Monthly online meetings are used to organize conference events and an exciting programme of member-benefit webinars, and to explore other ways to facilitate communication between members with a special interest in eAssessment. Thanks are due to UCL for kindly hosting the eAssessment SIG webinars on its online collaborative learning platform, with recordings available to those who are unable to attend the real time broadcasts.

The refreshed Association website, with enhanced functionality, will include dedicated web pages for each of the SIGs, which will be used to engage AEA-E members with the SIGs and with each other. It is hoped that the SIGs, which are only open to AEA-E members, may also encourage new members to join the Association.

The formation of the Assessment Cultures SIG followed a process, published on the website, which is designed to make it easy for AEA-E members to propose new SIGs aligned with their interests. The Association welcomes proposals for new SIGs, and the existing SIGs are delighted to receive offers of member contributions to their development and activities.

Thanks are due to all members of the SIG Steering Groups for the energy, creativity, time and effort that they put in to making their SIGs such a valuable benefit for AEA-E members that share an interest in eAssessment or Assessment Cultures. Association members are warmly invited to join one or both of these special interest groups.

## 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)

Gerry Shiel (Dublin 2019)

### Meetings and agenda

The main responsibility of the SPC is to ensure the preparation and production of a quality and balanced programme for the annual conference. All business meetings throughout the year were conducted very effectively via Skype and email.

### Actions

After evaluating the very successful conference in Lisbon, the SPC started preparations for the conference in Dublin. In accordance with the plans, we also included a new format in the Call, the so-called connected-papers, and at the same time we retained all the formats that gained considerable popularity in the evaluation of the 2019 conference.

In accordance with tradition, the call for Pre-Conference Workshop submissions was earlier than the call for all other types of submission. Five conference workshops were submitted before the deadline.

Unfortunately, shortly after the announcement of the Call, various restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic began to come into practice worldwide. Nevertheless, we are pleased that by the end of the submission deadline, 102 individuals and teams had signed up and were ready to present the results of their work at the Dublin conference. (Three submissions were subsequently withdrawn from leaving 99). As the global situation began to deteriorate and various travel restrictions came into force, the Council decided to postpone the annual conference in Dublin to 2021.

The SPC has, therefore, decided to postpone the evaluation of all contributions until it will be possible to travel safely again. Though the SPC informed all those who submitted proposals that their contributions would be rolled-over for the 2021 conference if this was their wish.

However, the new era not only brings limitations, but also new exciting and innovative opportunities.

The SPC, like other AEA committees, is aware of the need to maintain impetus in order for the community of AEA members and supporters to continue to be informed and participate in any future events. Whilst the SPC is not oblivious to the fact that 'normality' is unlikely to be resumed in the foreseeable future there is an overwhelming desire on the part of the Association to perpetuate the well-established community of practice, in other words, the desire of all of us to meet, communicate, exchange

experiences, and simply be together.

Therefore, in cooperation with the PDC and other AEA committees, we have decided to hold an online Festival, designed as an alternative to the traditional autumn conference and which will take place at the same time in November.

To this end, several virtual meetings have taken place over the course of the last few months and a three-day 'Festival' has been planned, which we hope will help all stakeholders to exchange experiences in addressing the pandemic in the field of educational measurement. The theme for the Festival will be: How did your education and assessment system react to the effects of Covid19?

Due to the fact that all meetings and preparatory work has taken place exclusively online and voluntarily, there has been no need to use the funds allocated in the organization's budget for SPC activities.

## Annual Conferences

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

We had a very successful conference in **2019 in Lisbon**. The number of submissions was high, varied and of good quality. The poster sessions and the Ignite sessions continue to be well-received. The **mobile App** was again part of the SPC's provision for the conference allowing for access to the conference programme, planning attendance at sessions, voting for the best poster and a new social media function to plan meet-ups and chat. The SPC and the Local Organising Committee - IAVE - put together an excellent programme and worked relentlessly to ensure that the conference was a great success.

Then in **2020** the COVID19 pandemic hit and unfortunately the conference to be hosted by Trinity College Dublin and Educational Research Centre in **Dun Laoghaire Dublin** (Ireland) had to be postponed. The Vice- President and I worked closely with the local hosts TCD/ERC in Dublin with regard to planning for them to host the 2021 conference instead. This they agreed to and we are very grateful to them for this accommodation. We had also awarded the 2021 conference to our colleagues in the Institute of Education, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia and they too have very graciously agreed to shift the conference they will host to 2022.

### **The 2020 Festival: online 4-6 November**

Since the ordinary annual conference had to be postponed to next year, it was decided that we should still organise an event where we can meet, share research and discuss topics of interest, even if it could not be a full conference. Thus, the 2020 meeting became the online Festival. The planning of the festival was a bit unusual compared to the ordinary conferences where the AEA-Europe council and active members have a lot of experience, so the online format has been a learning experience for all. Still, it proved to be a very successful decision as the conference has gained a lot of interest from the membership, so it can definitely be a format to consider for activities complementing the annual conference. The council is very grateful to all who have participated in or in some way supported the planning of the Festival, and especially the scientific programme committee, led by Stuart Shaw, for carrying out a lot of work with planning the programme. We would also like to thank the presenters and the special interest groups in E-assessment and assessment cultures for their work with the workshops and panel discussions. We have also this year relied on Easy conferences for the practical work, and for the festival this included setting up the website, managing the zoom sessions and making sure that all sessions would run smoothly, with backup functions in place. It has worked very well and we look forward to future collaboration.

### **The 2021 Conference: Dublin/Dun Laoghaire 3-6 November**

The 21st Annual conference is planned to take place in Dun Laoghaire and Dublin. The conference will be hosted by Trinity College Dublin and the Educational Research Centre, Dublin. Dún Laoghaire is a coastal suburb of Dublin, only a few kilometers from the city centre, and one of many charming towns and villages along the Dublin Bay coastline, with many cultural attractions and some of the best restaurants in Ireland. The venue for the conference, including the pre-conference workshops, will be the Royal Marine Hotel. The hotel is situated in the centre of Dún Laoghaire with a breath-taking view overlooking Dublin Bay.

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. With the covid-pandemic hopefully behind us, this theme will be especially relevant for the experiences that have been gained, and the research following this.

Dun Laoghaire is a perfect location for a conference – it is not only convenient and beautiful as a venue, it 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, especially since the practical planning started already in early 2019. In 2020, the conference organising committee met with the local organisers in several meetings to discuss and plan the practical details. The scientific programme committee also met several times to prepare for the submissions and the review of these, until it was decided that the conference was to be moved to next year. All who submitted were contacted to let them know that their submissions could remain until next year, if they wished to do so. The regular meetings to continue planning this conference will start again after the 2020 Festival.

The Conference Organizing Committee (COC) for the 2021 conference has consisted of Jannette Elwood, (President, AEA-Europe, Northern Ireland), Christina Wikström, Chair (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), Gerry Shiel (Educational Research Centre, Ireland) and Damian Murchan (Trinity College, Ireland), Natalia Nunes (IAVE, Portugal, organizer of the 2019 conference in Lisbon) and Alina Ivanova (NRU HSE Moscow, the organizer of the 2022 conference)

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, Ireland) – **I will have to check these names!**

### **The 2022 Conference: Moscow, Russia, 10-12 November**

The 22nd Annual conference will be hosted by the National Research University, Higher School of Economics in Moscow. The local organising committee will be led by Elena Kardanova and Alina Ivanova. The planning of this conference is early in the process but a suitable venue has been identified agreed suitable for the AEA-Europe conference. We are confident that this will be a very well organised conference by our local hosts and look forward to the conference and the opportunities to explore Moscow.

As for the future conferences, for 2023 and 2024, the new council will eventually put out a **call for proposals for hosting these** conferences. We very much encourage members to talk with Council over the next year if they are interested in hosting a future conference.

## **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 in 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. Stéphanie Berger from Institut für Bildungsevaluation, University of Zürich (Switzerland) with a thesis delivered and defended at the University of Twente (Netherlands). Dr. Berger 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:**

Guri Nortvedt, University of Oslo (Norway)

Rose Clesham, Pearson, (UK)

Anton Beguin, Cito (the Netherlands)

The PDC will thank the jury members for their support with critical examination and review of the applications for the award.

### Poster Award

At the 20th annual AEA-E conference in Lisbon, a whopping total of 25 posters were presented, following the plenary format that was introduced at the 17<sup>th</sup> 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. For reasons of efficiency, the presenters held their pitch on stage while their posters were projected, while in the original format the host of this session would walk along the posters with a hand microphone. All conference delegates were invited to rate the posters through the conference app –with a paper-based backup for those not able or willing to use the app- against specified criteria and to nominate up to three posters for the best poster award. The PDC counted the votes and had the winner proclaimed at the Awards and Closing session on Saturday. The poster “From paper-based to computer-based assessment of numeracy: some consequences for item design”, presented by Karianne Berg Bratting from the University of Oslo, Norway, won the poster award. The award was traditionally sponsored by Cito, the Netherlands and 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 research staff and consulting Cito specialists on the research topic of the poster. Due to the corona pandemic the visit of Karianne to Cito still has to take place at the moment of writing.

### Accredited Members 2020

The following accreditations were made this year. The accredited members will receive their certificates by ordinary mail this year:

**Practitioner:**

Tom Gallacher, GL Assessment (UK)

**Associate:**

Gary Cole, City & Guilds (UK)

The number of applications was low this year, as compared to the last couple of years. The Council would like to encourage members to put themselves forward for accreditation, especially those who meet the criteria for Fellow. The PDC will be working towards increasing the number of elected Fellows of the association throughout 2020-21.

## Financial Report

The financial report over 2019 is presented below. First, in table 3a, the operating budget for 2019 is presented. This is followed by a profit and loss overview of the Lisbon 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.

Like last year, a direct overall comparison of the results for 2019 and 2018 is possible. Both for the 2018 and 2019 conference, the registration was outsourced and the conference itself was directly hosted by respectively Cito and IAVE. The Arnhem-Nijmegen 2018 conference entries show total income and expenditure as do the Lisbon conference entries. Nonetheless, for the sake of completeness, a more detailed profit and loss overview of the 2019 Lisbon conference has been incorporated in this report in table 3b.

A comparison of the financial report for 2019 with the budget for 2019 and the financial report for 2018 makes clear that the revenues from subscription fees are still decreasing and the matter of uncollectable debtors remains unsolved. The number of members not paying their membership fees for one or more years has grown over the last years. There are several reasons for this phenomenon. One is the fact that messages from the treasury do not always reach members. Another reason has to do with imperfections of the registration system on our website. And yet another reason might be that members that are not planning to visit the conference do not see a reason to continue membership because the membership does not offer enough added value next to a reduced rate for the conference. To start with solving this issue, a proposal on the size and structure of the membership fees and payment options has been presented to and accepted by the General Assembly during the 2019 Conference. In addition to this, our website will be redesigned in 2020. The registration system will become more user friendly and payment processes will be more streamlined. The redesign also aims at increasing the added value of AEA Europe next to the yearly conference. The council expect that these measures will help to finally close this issue.

All in all, despite the reduction in membership fee income, for 2019 there is a positive result of € 1.494, because of the success of the Lisbon conference which had the highest number of attendees of all conferences thus far. Note however, that the money lost over the years with uncollectable debtors might pose a serious threat to the continuity of AEA Europe if this issue is not resolved the coming years.

The profit and loss overview of the Lisbon conference in table 3b gives a summary of the income and expenditure having to do with organizing the conference. The Lisbon conference all in all had a positive financial result of € 26.897, which is much higher than the financial results of the Arnhem-Nijmegen (€ 16.893) and the Prague (€ 12.816) conference. The main reason for this is that IAVE as a body of the Portuguese government could not ask an organizational fee to cover their personnel costs.

The total income of sponsoring of the Lisbon Conference (€ 7.600) comes from Vretta<sup>1</sup> (conference bags and lanyards, exhibition stand and flyer; € 3.550;), Cambridge Assessment (pen and paper, exhibition stand, flyer; € 1.350), AQA Education (Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award; exhibition stand € 1.150), Grademaker (exhibition stand with monitor; flyer; € 800), Pearson (Phd/Fellows event; € 500) and GA Partnership flyer; € 250).

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<sup>1</sup> Note that Vretta also covered the production and printing costs of the bags, but that this was directly paid by them to the manufacturer, so this amount is not entered into the financial administration of AEA Europe

Table 3a; Operating Budget (in Euros)

	<b>Report 31-12-2018</b>	<b>Budget 2019</b>	<b>Report 31-12-2019</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Subscriptions (Corporate)	22.200		16.800
Subscriptions (Individual)	9.100		4.830
Subscriptions (Student)	120		720
Subscriptions	[31.420]	35000	[22.350]
Uncollectable debtors	-5.370		-11.610
Conference Income	121.125		145.775
Conference Sponsoring	12.813		7.600
Interest	10	0	1
	<b>159.998</b>		<b>164.116</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Council Meetings	13.224	14.000	10.447
Administration (Secretariat and Treasury)	18.730	18.730	18.959
Conference Expenditure	117.045		126.496
Professional Development Committee	345	2.000	0
Communications Committee	2.157	1.500	120
Scientific Programme Committee		1.500	0
Website maintenance	4.515	5.000	5.419
New researcher award	500	500	500
Audit Committee	0	300	0
Promotional activities	4.320 <sup>2</sup>	2.000	0
Participation fund		5.000	0
Miscellaneous	254	100	0
Bank Charges; Gain/Loss Foreign Exchange	282	1.000	681
	<b>161.373</b>		<b>162.622</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>-1.375</b>		<b>1.493</b>

<sup>2</sup> Costs of the ResearchGate campaign

Table 3b; Profit and loss overview Lisbon conference (in Euros)

<b>Income</b>	<b>Euro per unit</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Early Registration fees</i>			
AEA-Europe Full Member Fee	400	172	68.800
Non-Member Fee	470	80	37.600
AEA-Europe Student Member Fee	245	21	5.145
Participating Sponsor	200	3	600
Registrations covered by AEA Europe	400	5	2.000
<i>Late Registration fees and other income</i>			
AEA-Europe Full Member Fee	465	19	8.835
Non-Member Fee	535	25	13.375
AEA-Europe Student Member Fee	310	1	310
Registrations covered by AEA Europe	465	0	0
Cancellations		[5]	0
No shows/Registrations covered by AEA Europe		[12]	0
<b>Number of attendees:</b>		<b>343</b>	
Pre-Conference Workshop Fee	100	78	7.800
Conference dinner accompanying persons	80	9	720
Accompanying person package	200	1	200
Hardcopy 2019 Conference Handbook	30	11	330
Welcome reception accompanying persons	30	2	60
Sponsoring			7.600
			<b>153.375</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Expenditure<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Euro per unit</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Total</b>
EasyConferences – online registration, assistance etc.	20	343	6.860
Conference website			1.500
Mobile conference app			2.400
VAT 19% Easyconferences <sup>4</sup>			2.044
Bank charges (2,5%) Easyconferences <sup>5</sup>			3.594
Venue and gala dinner costs			98.885
Activity costs <sup>6</sup>			4.618
Miscellaneous <sup>7</sup>			6.595
			<b>126.496</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Surplus</b>			<b>26.879</b>

<sup>3</sup> IAVE, as body of the Portuguese government, could not ask an organizational fee, which increased the conference profit substantially.

<sup>4</sup> 19% of € 10.7602 (€ 6.860 + conference website costs (€ 1.500) + mobile conference app (€ 2.400))

<sup>5</sup> 2,5 % of € 143.775 (€ 148.370 - € 4.595 (no shows: 2\*early full member (€ 400); 2\*early part. spons. (€ 200); 5\*late full member (€ 465) and 2\*late non-member € 535))

<sup>6</sup> Transport to conference dinner; presents; banners; producing and printing programme booklets; etc.

<sup>7</sup> Promotional video 2018; several expenses key notes; gift certificates workshop leaders; social events

Table 4; Balance sheet as at December 31, 2019 (in Euros)

<b><u>Assets</u></b>	Bank (Rabobank)	50.000
	Deposit	81.717
		<b>131.717</b>
<b><u>Prepayments and receivables</u></b>	Debtors	21.770
	Prepayment Dublin	5.000
		<b>26.770</b>
<b><u>Payables</u></b>	Conference costs 2018	-21.358
	Secretariat	-10.159
		<b>-31.516</b>
<b><u>Sundry</u></b>		<b>-1.658</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>125.312</b>
<b><u>Equity</u></b>	Retained profits (31-12-2018)	<b>123.819</b>
	Surplus / Deficit 2019	<b>1.493</b>
<b><u>Total Equity</u></b>		<b>125.312</b>

The total amount of assets at December 31, 2019, is € 125.312. At December 31, 2018, the total amount of assets was € 114.263.

The prepayments and receivables consist of outstanding subscriptions for 2018 and 2019 (€ 5.300 and € 12.920), still to be received payments for attending and sponsoring the 2019 conference (€ 3.550) and a first advance payment to the organizers of the 2020 Dublin<sup>8</sup> conference (€ 5.000). The payables entail costs for the 2018 Arnhem-Nijmegen conference that were paid in 2019 (€ 21.358) and 2018 costs for the Secretariat that were also paid in 2019 (€ 10.159). Sundry refers to relatively smaller 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 relatively small items that should have been paid in 2019 but were/are to be paid in 2020. Sundry for 2019 amounts to € -1.658, consisting of 2018 expenses for the publication committee paid in 2019 (-€ 120), the price money for the Kathleen Tattersal New Researcher Award 2019 paid in 2020 (-€ 500), 2018 council expenses paid in 2019 (-€ 530), interest for 2019 still to be received (€ 0,52), bank costs for 2018 paid in 2019 (-€ 77) and a payment for a membership of the IAEA (€ -431) that was erroneously transferred to the AEA Europe account by Cito administrative staff.

## Proposed Business Plan 2020-2022

The Business Plan as presented in last year's annual report has been updated again. The Business Plan 2020-2022 as presented in this annual report is comparable to the Business Plans of the last

<sup>8</sup> Postponed to 2021 without direct negative financial consequences

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). Note however, that the budget for 2020 has been updated from the original one because of the corona crisis.

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 2020-2022 are based on the structural financial results of the last years and incorporate the effects of the corona crisis in 2020. The assumption is that no major incidents will take place in 2021 or 2022.

Table 5 Business Plan 2020-2022; Budgets

	2020	2021	2022
<b>Income</b>			
Subscriptions	36.500	36.500	38.000
Conference revenue		15.000	12.000
	<b>36.500</b>	<b>54.000</b>	<b>50.000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Council	3.000	10.000	10.000
Administration (secretariat and treasury)	18.730	18.730	18.730
Scientific Programme Committee	0	1.500	1.500
Professional Development Committee	2.000	2.000	2.000
Communications Committee	1.000	1.500	1.500
New Researcher Award	500	500	500
Audit Committee	300	300	300
Website/software <sup>9</sup>	14.000	7.000	7.000
Bank charges/gain loss foreign exchange	1.000	1.000	1.000
Promotional activities	0	2.000	2.000
Participation fund		5.000	5.000
Miscellaneous	100	100	100
	<b>40.630</b>	<b>49.630</b>	<b>49.630</b>
<b>Annual surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>-4.130</b>	<b>4.370</b>	<b>.370</b>

Note that:

- The budget for 2020 has been structurally changed because of the effect of the corona crisis.
- The projected deficit in 2020 is expected to be compensated in 2021.
- The budget for the council in 2021 and 2022 has been decreased based on the financial results in 2019 and the expectation that more meetings will take place online.
- Subscriptions and conference revenues for 2021 and 2022 have been relatively increased, because of the higher subscription fees accepted by the General Assembly in Lisbon 2019. However, the expected income for the Moscow conference is somewhat lower, to reflect an expected decline in the number of participants, because of the travelling distance.

<sup>9</sup> About € 7.000 for maintenance and € 7.000 for redesign and refurbishment in 2020

- Budget for the Scientific Programme Committee has been added for 2021 and 2022 in order to facilitate the putting together 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. To date no use has been made of the Participation Fund.