



AEA-Europe Annual Report 2018

The Council of AEA-Europe

October 2018

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Introduction 2018

After two years as president of AEA-Europe, it is time to hand over the responsibility during the 2018 General Assembly, in accordance with the constitution. Many actions have been undertaken: the organisation of the conferences, internal restructuring 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 warm, friendly and shared spirit. I wish to thank all the members, and in particular those in the Council and various committees of our Association with whom I really enjoyed working.

Welcoming new people

In accordance with the statutes of the association, the Vice-President **Jannette Elwood** will assume presidency in November 2018. I wish to warmly thank Jannette for her commitment during the past two years where we got on really well together and managed to achieve what was planned. I now wish her all the very best during her term of office.

Following the election process that took place during summer 2018, I am pleased to welcome the new Vice-President (President-elect), **Christina Wikström** (Umeå University, Sweden) and a new Council member, **Andrej Novik** (SCIO, Czech Republic). Welcome on board!

Lastly, after four years as Council member, **Iasonas Lamprianou** will step down. On behalf of the association, I would like to thank Iasonas for his contributions and ideas to the association.

Organising conferences

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

The annual conference organised in **2017** in **Prague** 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 **2018** in **Arnhem/Nijmegen**. 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 a new exciting format – Ignite session – will be tried out. Given the positive feedback in 2017, a **mobile application** will be again developed to provide access to the conference programme, the choice of planning the activities you wish to attend as well as the possibility to vote for the best poster. The local committee from **CITO** has put together an excellent program and have strived relentlessly to ensure that the conference is a success.

In **2019**, the **conference** will be hosted by IAVE in **Lisbon** (Portugal) and in **2020** the conference will be hosted by the Trinity College and Educational Research Centre in **Dublin** (Ireland). The Vice-President and I have personally had the opportunity to meet the organising teams in both countries this year and I have absolutely no doubt that they will also organise a successful conference.

As for the future conferences, a **call for proposals for hosting the 2021 and 2022** conferences has already been sent out. The selection will be made in due time in a similar open and transparent process.

Enhancing the professionalism of the association

In 2018, the association continued to improve its **internal organisation** of the association. We should not ignore the fact that the Council and Committee members are already highly committed in their

own professional responsibilities. 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 launch of AEA-Europe's first **Special Interest Group (SIG)** on **e-assessment** took place in the Prague conference and since then it has its own Facebook group and a few **webinars** have been organised in this context. On a broader level, the Association continued to reflect on the revision of the AEA-Europe **standards**, following the ideas raised during a dedicated discussion group in Prague last year.

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 would also like to invite more PhD students to become members of AEA-Europe.

Developing communication tools

During this past year, the association made active use of the **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.

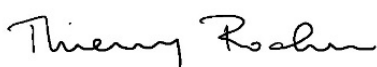
Increasing membership

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. This is in line with the **Business Plan** which aims to have many European countries as possible are represented in AEA-Europe.

Looking back, the past four years in the Council, first as Vice-president and later on as President, will have been extremely rich professionally and personally. I wish to thank you all for the trust that you invested in me. I really hope that I was able, in this role, to contribute to the development of knowledge and exchanges in the field of assessment in education.

I am convinced that the association will continue to grow, to bring forth new ideas and develop the culture of educational assessment in Europe. I will of course continue to participate in the conferences and to promote the association within my professional circle.

Thank you for this great adventure.



AEA-Europe President

Evaluation in Relation to Strategic Aims

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

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

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

1. To develop and enhance the core activities of the association

1.1 Organising successful conferences

- Quality
The annual evaluation of the quality of conferences (keynotes, presentation, structure) continues to be positive.
- Attendance
After increasing from 2016 to 2017, the number of attendees has remained stable between 2017 and 2018 (270 to 272).
The number of submissions for the annual conference is slightly lower than in 2017:
In 2018: 5 workshops, 5 discussion groups, 1 symposium, 15 posters, 9 ignite presentations, 72 papers
- Formats
For 2018, the new conference presentation format "Ignite session" is piloted.

1.2 Developing communication tools and networking activities

- Social media
The use of social media has significantly increased (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook)
- Newsletter
There were 3 publications this year (2017-2018)
- Special Interest Group (SIG)
Three webinars have been organised

1.3 Strengthening professional development

- Standards
Reflection on the AEA-Europe standards has continued
- PhD network and Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher award
A special event is organised in Arnhem/Nijmegen
- Accreditation
A special event is organised in Arnhem/Nijmegen

Plans

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

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

2. To increase membership of the association

2.1 Analysing membership

- Membership numbers

Current membership 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
Individual	132	139	151	133**	135
Corporate	41	42	41	37	35
Student	46	48	8*	10	4

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

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

- Membership by country

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

2.2 Defining a strategy to increase membership

- Report on AEA-Europe membership

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

Questionnaire about AEA-Europe membership
A questionnaire was sent out to all those who attended the conference, seeking their views about the benefits of being a member of the Association. A summary of the outcomes of the survey are given below.

MEMBERSHIP

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 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

Since this survey the Publication Committee has been working with Research Gate to target potential members working in educational assessment from countries that are underrepresented within the association. In addition work has been progressing to identify 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 Thierry Rocher. The effectiveness of these measures will be evaluated through reviewing membership and attendance at this year's conference.
- Early career researchers

One of the other areas identified for improvement was around young researchers and attracting more members and considering how best to support them. Some work was undertaken at the Post-graduate reception at the Prague conference to ascertain views of young researchers. One of the first steps was for the Publication Committee to work with some of the young researchers to establish an association Facebook page for young researchers. Other areas of activity are under consideration.

Plans

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

3. To enhance standards of operationalisation of the association

3.1 Increasing efficiency and transparency of the organisation

- Policy and Rules document

A first draft has been written. Version 1 available for the GA.
- Conference Handbook

The Conference handbook has been revised. 2018 version will be available on the website

- 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.

3.2 Developing robust tools

Internal organisation

- Website
The new website set up in 2017 has been improved

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.

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 2017 in Prague, January 2018 in London, May 2018 in Arnhem/Nijmegen and September 2018 in Belfast). 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 2018. 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.

Two Council members will step down from November 2018 (Thierry Rocher and Iasonas Lamprianou). An election process took place during the summer of 2018 and we are pleased to announce that a new Vice-President (President-elect), Christina Wikström and a new Council member, Andrej Novik, were appointed.

The current Secretariat 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	Start of the Present Term of Office	End of the Present Term of Office	Number of Previous Terms Fulfilled	Comment
<i>Thierry Rocher</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Nov 16</i>	<i>Nov 18</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Vice-president 2014-2016</i>
<i>Iasonas Lamprianou</i>	<i>Council Member</i>	<i>Nov 14</i>	<i>Nov 18</i>	<i>0</i>	
Jannette Elwood (UK)	President	Nov 18	Nov 20	0	Vice-president 2016-2018
Christina Wikström (Sweden)	Vice President	Nov 18	Nov 20	0	Will take on the role of President in Nov 2020
Alex Scharaschkin (UK)	Executive Secretary	Nov 18	Nov 22	1	
Cor Sluijter (Netherlands)	Treasurer	Nov 15	Nov 19	0	
Andrej Novik (Czech Republic)	Council Member	Nov 18	Nov 22	0	
Gill Stewart (UK)	Council Member	Nov 15	Nov 19	0	
Rolf V. Olsen (Norway)	Council member	Nov 16	Nov 20	0	

AEA-E Committees

Professional Development Committee (PDC)

Members

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

Bas Hemker (CITO, Netherlands)

Andrew Boyle (Alphaplus Consultancy, UK)

Elena Papanastasiou (University of Nicosia, Cyprus)

Stéphanie Berger (IBE, Switzerland)

Meetings and agenda

Business throughout the year was conducted both face-to-face at the annual conference in Prague and via Skype and email. Activity with electronic meetings has been lower than usual. 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 have had twelve successful applicants for accreditation: Two Associates, eight Practitioners and two Fellows. It should be noted that the pool of potential reviewers is limited due to a low number of active Fellows. Fortunately, the majority of Fellows promptly gives positive responses when asked to do a review, and they conduct their role carefully and give thoughtful evaluative statements and comments in their reports. Nevertheless, this is a reminder that we should make targeted efforts to motivate more of our members to become accredited Fellows. Furthermore, the PDC will also make a detailed review of the current standards for the accreditations and suggest some modifications.

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. In 2017 this event was partly co-hosted with an event for accredited members, and we

will continue to do so to support an arena for young researchers to meet and discuss their ideas with senior fellows.

The AEA Standards have not been revised since they were first published (version 1.0). The PDC organised a well-attended discussion group at the conference in 2017 presenting results from a survey among the members and an approach to further developing the standards was presented and discussed. In general, it was difficult to conclude a clear consensus among members from the survey and the discussion group. The work has not progressed as planned since then.

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 organiser of the oral presentations over the two last years. We believe this change in format is the direct reason for the substantial increase in the number of proposals for posters lately.

Publication Committee

Members

Gill Stewart (SQA, UK) - chair

Lesley Wiseman, Independent educational consultant (United Kingdom)

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

Deborah Chetcuit (University of Malta)

Mary Richardson (University College London)

Activity

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

Amina, in her role as Newsletter Editor, has been working with members of the Association to put out a more regular newsletter to keep members up to date with the latest news. She has also updated the format of the newsletter. The challenge remains to attract members to contribute more actively and regularly to the newsletter. At the moment, contributors are limited to only a handful of members and others who are personally or professionally connected to the committee members. One suggestion is to rather reach out more often by posting news on a continual basis through the website. Another idea is to produce an “Annual Review “ which would cover in-depth work of the association (for example: interviewing the president, council/committee members, researchers, policy-makers, a post-grad student, KT award winner, the conference host). We could also include interesting presentations / awards / webinar news etc. These propositions are still subject to approval by the council.

Mary has taken over the role of social media manager. Alongside the AEA Facebook Page, she has established a Facebook group for the eAssessment SIG and is working with young researchers to set

a Young Researchers/Doctoral student Facebook group too. The AEA Facebook Page and Twitter accounts have been used to post information and events that may be of interest to members – posting is now reciprocal between the two media to ensure a fast spread of information. For example we asked the workshop presenters for this year’s conference to do a short video to promote their pre-conference workshop to people. Mary has also played an active role in setting up new pages and in editing website content too, e.g. there is now a Special Interest group page and a new page planned for Young Researchers/Doctoral Students.

Lesley has been leading for the Association on the establishment of Special Interest Groups (SIGs). She has developed a process and paperwork for the establishment of SIGs so that members can now propose new SIGs aligned with their own interests: this will be published in the autumn.

She has been working with the Chair and other Steering Group members to establish the first SIG which has e-assessment as its focus. The e-assessment SIG was launched at the Prague conference and by August 2018 the SIG had 119 members. The SIG regularly posts items of interest for members on the Facebook group and aims to include an article in each Association newsletter. It sent out a survey to all AEAE members to identify themes of interest, and are using this to help inform future work. To date, the SIG has led three Webinars with guest lectures on eAssessment themes – these are hosted by UCL’s online collaborative learning platform and downloads of the lecture with notes are available to interested people who are unable to attend the real time broadcasts:

1. Introducing the FLIP Framework (January 2018)
2. Assessing the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (International Baccalaureate) (April 2018)
3. The ABC of automated testing (NITE) (September 2018)

The SIG is organising a pre-conference workshop on innovative on-screen assessment and a discussion group at the conference, as well as planning an informal get together during the conference for SIG members.

Since joining the Publications Committee, Deborah has led on developing a strategy about how the Association could increase its membership from its current base. This included an analysis of current membership by country, type of membership and the types of organisations represented. She also carried out a survey of those who attended last year’s conference to inform her plans. She has looked at a range of possible approaches that the Association could use to increase membership. This has included targeted work with ResearchGate to target underrepresented countries, and targeting authors published in educational assessment journals who are not involved with the Association to encourage them to join. Deborah has also worked with Cor on possible changes to membership packages.

Annual Conferences

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

“Assessment cultures in a globalised world”

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

Preparation

The Prague team worked with The Centre of Administration and Operations of the Czech Academy of Sciences to help secure the conference venue and gala dinner venue. The venue for the conference was the Hotel Corinthia, which overlooks Prague.

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

The Conference Organizing Committee (COC) were: Thierry Rocher (President, AEA-Europe, France) (Co-Chair), Andrej Novik (AEA-Europe member, SCIO, Czech Republic) (Co-Chair), Jannette Elwood (Vice-President, AEA-Europe, Northern Ireland), George MacBride (University of Glasgow, Scotland), Guri A. Nortvedt (Immediate Ex-President AEA-Europe, Norway), Barbora Pilařová (SCIO colleague, Czech Republic), Alex Scharaschkin (Executive Secretary, AEA-Europe, UK), Linda Wye (AEA-Europe Secretariat).

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

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

Interest

As with AEA-Europe Conferences generally, there was significant interest in the Prague Conference with a total of 152 submissions received. After peer review, most of the submissions were accepted, which resulted in multiple parallel sessions). The programme for 2017 was slightly amended given feedback from participants of the Limassol Conference. Thursday's presentations were a mixture of

keynote presentations including the Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award presentation, the poster session and open paper sessions. Friday's sessions are dedicated to open paper presentations and discussion groups as well as the general assembly. The latter were programmed together and not against open paper sessions to respond to feedback which suggested helping support attendance and interaction at discussion sessions. Saturday's sessions were based around the symposia submitted to the conference with the new Keynote Symposia presentation being part of the conference. The number of participants was 270.

Social programme and venues

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

Two receptions were held on Thursday 9th November at the Prague Creative Centre. These were: (i) welcome for all doctoral students; and (ii) meet and greet for all accredited members of the association. Both meetings took place in the quaint medieval building with a modern and creative feeling and offered excellent opportunities for networking of doctoral students and accredited members. The conference dinner was held on the evening of Friday 10th November in the Art Nouveau restaurant situated within the Municipal House – a significant Art Nouveau gem of Prague's architecture heritage, built by the famous Czech architects Antonin Balšánek and Osvald Polivka in 1912. After the dinner there was an entertainment programme prepared for participants by the local organising committee in the majestic basement of the Municipal House.

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

"Building bridges to future educational assessment".

The 19th annual conference is hosted by Cito, Institute for Educational Measurement, and takes place in the region Arnhem-Nijmegen, the Netherlands. This year, 2018 Cito is also 50 years old and we will be celebrating that anniversary with them! Cito is a loyal founding member of the Association of Educational Assessment Europe and we are delighted to be joining them in their anniversary year.

Preparation

The venue for the conference, including the pre-conference workshops, will be the Van der Valk Hotel Nijmegen-Lent, <https://www.valknijmegen.nl/en> which is centrally located in the urban zone of Arnhem and Nijmegen. The venue overlooks the typical Dutch landscape of the rivers Rhine and Waal. Arnhem is the capital city of the province of Gelderland and for almost 50 years the seat of Cito. The city is located at the Rhine, which river can be crossed by the famous 'Bridge to Far': a heavily combatted strategic crossing in the last episode of World War II. Nijmegen is the oldest city in the Netherlands dating more than 2000 years back in the period of the expansion of the Roman empire in Northern Europe, when the city was named Noviomagus. The region Arnhem-Nijmegen is located very close to the border with Germany. You can reach many European cities like Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Köln and Düsseldorf within a two-hour drive by car or train. The region is also home to a

wide range of educational institutes and schools, like the Arnhem School of Arts Artez, the Arnhem Academy of Music, the Radboud University Nijmegen and the University for Applied Sciences Arnhem-Nijmegen (HAN). The hotel is a short train ride from both Arnhem and Nijmegen.

The Conference Organizing Committee (COC) are: 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 are: 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).

The Conference Organising Committee (COC) has 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 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 Dierteren, Jacqueline Kaal-van Hagen 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.

The AEA-Europe Council/CITO took the decision to partner again with EasyConferences (<http://easyconferences.eu/>) who supported the 18th Annual Conference in Prague. EasyConferences again also supported the submission of papers to the conference through their dedicated website and the development of the conference programme App.

Interest

As with AEA-Europe Conferences generally, there was significant interest in the Arnhem-Nijmegen Conference with a total of 116 submissions received. After peer review, most of the submissions were accepted: 5 x 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 again has multiple parallel sessions. The programme for 2017 has been slightly amended given feedback from participants past conferences and with the introduction of new session formats. Thursday's presentations again are a mixture of keynote presentations including the Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award presentation, the poster session and open paper sessions. Friday's sessions are dedicated to open paper presentations and discussion groups as well as the general assembly. Friday also sees the introduction of the 'Ignite session' which is new for 2018. Saturday's sessions are based on open paper sessions and keynote addresses. The number of participants is 272.

Social programme and venues

The conference welcome reception is being 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 will be a

warm welcome to new delegates, current members and greetings to all returning participants to the conference. The LOC have promised us a 'musical welcome' to remember!

Two receptions are being held on Thursday 9th November at the historic medieval vaults of Arnhem. These are: (i) welcome for all doctoral students; and (ii) meet and greet for all accredited members of the association. Both meetings will take place in the historic spacious storage vaults that became popular in the 14th century in the merchants' quarter. The vaults were usually rented out separately, often to merchants who stored their wares there. Many of the old cellars were rediscovered in the nineteen-nineties. These events are designed for excellent opportunities for networking of doctoral students and accredited members. <https://excitinghistory.com/de-middeleeuwen/arnhem-middeleeuwse-kelders>.

The conference dinner is being held on the evening of Friday 9th November and, in a first for the association, - we will be 'travelling by boat' along the Rhine on the "River Dream Boat" seeing the lights of Arnhem/Nijmegen from the beautiful setting of the boat as well as enjoying good food and dancing along the way. Delegates to the conference will also be offered an opportunity on the Thursday evening to visit the 'Airbourne at the Bridge' Museum which commemorates the Battle of Arnhem, the biggest airborne landing operation of the Second World War. Delegates will be able to sign up for this trip as they so wish. <https://www.airbornemuseum.nl/en/airborne-at-the-bridge>.

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

The 20th Annual Conference will be hosted by IAVE, the Portuguese Assessment Board, and take place in Lisbon. The theme of the Conference will be "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, which is centrally located and overlooks the historic S. Jorge's Castle and Eduardo VII's park.

Lisbon 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.

Awards and Accreditations

Kathleen Tattersall New Assessment Researcher Award 2018

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 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 Maria Bolsinova from ACT Next (the Netherlands). Dr. Bolsinova will present her research as one of the keynotes at the Arnhem/Nijmegen 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

Rolf V Olsen, Norway

The PDC will in particular thank Rose Clesham for her continued support with reviewing applications for the award in the last four years.

Poster Award

At the 18th annual AEA-E conference in Prague, 15 posters were presented. All conference delegates were invited to rate the posters against specified criteria and to nominate up to three posters for the award. The PDC counted the votes and proclaimed the winner. The poster "Elimination scoring versus correction for guessing: A simulation study" presented by Qian Wu in collaboration with Tinne de Laet and Rianne Janssen from the Catholic University Leuven in Belgium won the poster award. The award was sponsored by CITO, the Netherlands and included covering the costs of a visit to CITO. The Leuven team visited Cito in September 2018.

Accredited Members 2018

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: Pia Almarlind, Erika Bergvall, Patric Åström and Mattias Abrahamsson (all four from Sweden), Kevin Mason, Vasu Krishnaswamy and Sarah Hughes (UK) & Ya Ping Hsiao (the Netherlands)

Associate: Jenny Crewe & Andre Lewis (both UK)

Fellow: Elena Papanastasiou (Cyprus) & Saskia Wools (the Netherlands)

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 2017 is presented below. First, in table 3a, the operating budget for 2017 is presented. This is followed by a profit and loss overview of the Prague conference in table 3b. And the balance sheet is presented next in table 4. All overviews will be explained briefly, starting with the operating budget below.

A direct overall comparison of the results for 2017 and 2016 is not possible. The organization of the 2016 conference was completely outsourced, while for the 2017 conference only the registration was outsourced. As a result, the 2016 Limassol conference income entry in table 3a only reflects conference revenues, while the 2017 Prague conference entries show total income and expenditure. This results in artificial large increases in both total income and total expenditure from 2016 to 2017. In order to provide comprehensive financial information for 2017 a profit and loss overview of the Prague conference has therefore been added to this financial report in table 3b.

Taking the administrative effects of the differences between 2016 and 2017 into account, a comparison of the financial report for 2017 with the budget for 2017 and the financial report 2016 shows no striking differences. As income is concerned, the operating budget makes clear that the revenues from subscription fees are relatively stable. All costs have stayed within budget. Also, costs for council meetings are now again within budget. Travel and subsistence costs depend on the countries of residence of the council members. Changes in composition of the council therefore lead to changes in these costs. Note that the increase in budget for software development had to do with the necessary refurbishment of the website. This budget change was brought before the 2016 General Assembly and sanctioned.

The issue of the uncollectable debtors remains unsolved. Regrettably, there still is a number of members that have not paid their fee over the last years. Those members that have not paid their fees from 2015 onwards will be expelled at the 2018 general assembly, in accordance with the Association's constitution.

The profit and loss overview of the Prague conference in table 3b gives a summary of the income and expenditure having to do with this event. As income is concerned, the entry of minus €1.200 has to do with three attendees employed by a corporate member that were only able to pay after the conference due to company rules. That is why table 3a shows a profit of € 12.816 (See footnote 2 on the next page) and table 3b shows a profit of € 11.616.

The Prague conference all in all had a positive financial result of € 12.816. which is somewhat lower than the financial results of the Limassol (€ 16.600), the Glasgow (€ 16.825) and the Tallinn (€ 14.785) conferences. 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 and Tallinn conferences.

The total income of sponsoring of the Prague Conference (€ 8.800) comes from Cambridge Assessment (Welcome reception € 1750; Pre-conference Workshops € 1500; Exhibition Stand € 550; Flyer in delegate bags € 200), Vretta (Conference bag € 2.000; Exhibition Stand € 550), AQA Education (Kathleen Tattersall New Researcher Award € 500; Exhibition Stand € 550; Flyer in delegate bags €200), Pearson (€ 750; Lanyards) and Springer (Journal display; €250).

Table 3a; Operating Budget (in Euros)

	Report 31-12-2016	Budget 2017	Report 31-12-2017
Income			
2017 Subscriptions (Corporate)	22.200		22.200
2017 Subscriptions (Individual)	9.170		9.100
2017 Subscriptions (Student)	320		440
Subscriptions	[31.690]	35.000	[31.740]
Uncollectable debtors	- 5.550		-5.160
Limassol Conference Revenue	16.600		
Prague Conference Registration Income		15.000 ¹	121.743 ²
Prague Conference Sponsoring			8.800 ²
Interest	90	100	10
	44.230	50.100	157.133
Expenditure			
Council Meetings	14.505 ³	10.000	9.591
Administration (Secretariat and Treasury)	20.000	20.000	18.730
Prague Conference Expenditure			117.728 ²
Professional Development Committee	2.173	1.000	761
Publications Committee	1.651	3.000	0 ⁴
Website development	2.500	15.000	14.650
New researcher award	1.000	500	500
Audit Committee	0	300	0
Miscellaneous	16	100	0
Bank Charges; Gain/Loss Foreign Exchange	954	1.000	339
Bank Charges Glasgow conference	68		
	42.868	52.900	162.299
Surplus	1.362	-2.800	-5.166

¹ This was the expected revenue for the conference.

² Income (121.743)plus sponsoring (8.800) minus expenditure (117.728) equals 12.816.

³ Including travel and subsistence of visits to the venue by council and committee members in 2016 (see financial report 2016)

⁴ The Publications Committee has been conducting its business through regular Skype meetings, telephone and e-mail.

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

Income	Euro per unit	#	Total
<i>Early Registration fees</i>			
AEA-Europe Full Member Fee	400	122	48.800
Non-Member Fee	470	61	28.670
AEA-Europe Student Member Fee	245	13	3.185
Participating Sponsor	200	2	400
Registrations covered by AEA Europe	400	3	-1.200
<i>Late Registration fees and other income</i>			
AEA-Europe Full Member Fee	465	33	15.345
Non-Member Fee	535	28	14.980
AEA-Europe Student Member Fee	310	2	620
Participating Sponsor	250	3	750
Cancellations		9	873
	TOTAL #	276	
Pre-Conference Workshop Fee	100	64	6.400
Conference dinner accompanying persons	60	13	780
Welcome cocktail accompanying persons	30	4	120
Accompanying person package	200	2	400
Hardcopy 2017 Conference Handbook	30	14	420
Sponsoring			8.800
			129.343
Expenditure	Euro per unit	#	Total
EasyConferences – online registration, online support, onsite registration / assistance etc.	18	276	4.968
VAT 19% Easyconferences ⁵			944
Bank charges (2,5%) Easyconferences ⁶			3.014
Deposits SCIO ⁷			102.581
Venue visit 2016			464
Conference insurance			1392
KTNRA travel expenses			864
Conference bags			1882
Gift Cards workshop leaders			345
Miscellaneous ⁸			1274
			117.728
			11.616

⁵ 19% of 4.968

⁶ 2,5 % of (129.343-8.800)

⁷ A comprehensive overview of all conference related SCIO-expenditures has been provided to and was checked by the Treasury.

⁸ Several expenses key notes; one night stay compensation workshop leaders; compensation conference participation communication committee

Surplus

Table 4; Balance sheet as at December 31, 2017 (in Euros)

<u>Assets</u>	Bank (Rabobank)	118.095
	Deposit	0
	Cash ⁹	0
		118.095
<u>Receivables</u>	Debtors	12.990
<u>Payables</u>	Subscriptions paid in advance	0
<u>Sundry</u>		-23.468
<u>Net Assets</u>		107.617
<u>Equity</u>	Retained profits (31-12-2017)	112.7838
	Surplus / Deficit 2017	-5.166
<u>Total Equity</u>		107.617

The total amount of assets at December 31, 2017 is € 107.617. At December 31, 2016 the total amount of assets was €109.296.

The receivables consist of interest for 2017 still to be received (€9,64) outstanding subscriptions for 2016 and 2017 (€ 11.780) and still to receive payments for the 2017 conference (€1.200). Sundry refers to items that have been paid in 2017 but relate to 2018 (e.g. conference costs that have been paid in 2017 for the 2018 Arnhem-Nijmegen conference), or to items that should have been paid in 2017 but were/are to be paid in 2018. Sundry for 2017 amounts to -€ 23.468 consisting of the final settlement of the 2017 conference for SCIO (-€ 4.575); council meeting travel costs in 2017 paid in 2018 (-€ 927); PDC travel costs in 2017 paid in 2018 (-€ 345); costs for the secretariat and treasury in 2017 paid in 2018) (-€ 9.930 AQA and -€ 8.800 Cito) and an advance payment for the party ship for the conference 2018 (€ 3.975)

Proposed Business Plan 2018-2020

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

⁹ All remaining cash was deposited on the bank account in 2017

The Business Plan 2018-2020 as presented in this annual report is comparable to the Business Plan 2017-2019 that had a slightly less conservative nature than the Business Plans before. It still is in line with what has been agreed upon in the financial policy document: the Association has to maintain reserves that are at least equivalent to the funding of 18 month of normal activities (council and committee meetings and a reasonable amount to be used as deposits for conference arrangements). But since 2017 the plan is to try again to improve the number of members for the association. In order to achieve this, the council has deployed functionality offered by ResearchGate as a tool with the consent of the General Assembly of 2017. ResearchGate is the largest social networking site in the world for scientists and researchers to share papers, ask and answer questions, and find collaborators. It has over 4 million European members. In the second half of 2018 a campaign was launched through Researchgate to reach new potential members and attendees for the 2018 conference.

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 2018-2020 were, as always, based on the structural financial results of the last years and on the assumption that no incidents will take place.

Table 5 Business Plan 2018-2020; Budgets

	2018	2019	2020
Income¹⁰			
Subscriptions	35.000	36.500	38.000
Conference revenue	15.000	16.250	17.500
	50.100	52.850	55.600
Expenditure			
Council	10.000	10.000	10.000
Administration (secretariat and treasury)	20.000	20.000	20.000
Professional Development Committee	3.000	3.000	3.000
Communications Committee	3.000	3.000	3.000
Standards Committee	2.000		
New Researcher Award	500	500	500
Audit Committee	300	300	300
Website/software	4.000	4.000	4.000
Bank charges/gain loss foreign exchange	1.000	1.000	1.000
Promotional activities	4.000	4.000	4.000
Participation fund ¹¹	5.000	5.000	5.000
Miscellaneous	100	100	100
	50.900	50.900	50.900
Annual surplus (deficit)	-.800	1.950	4.700

¹⁰ Substantial revenue from interest are not expected

¹¹ For the explanation of this provision, see the next page.

Note that in 2017 it was decided to reinstate a scheme that AEA-Europe ran to support attendance at the annual conference for those for whom the costs of attending would otherwise be prohibitive. Since 2017 a provision is made of €5.000 to fund a similar scheme and labeled this the Participation Fund. The provision that has been made for revision of the Standards has not been employed yet, because at the moment of writing there has not been made a decision on revising the Standards yet. Note furthermore that the subscriptions and conference revenues for 2019 and 2020 have been increased in anticipation of a positive effect of the publicity campaign run through Researchgate. For 2019 extra expenses are expected for updating the Dutch version of the Constitution. This has not been taken into account, because the costs of this activity are not clear yet. Updating the Dutch version of the Constitution, however, is a necessity, because the Association resides under Dutch law. Therefore, for changes in the Constitution to become effective, they have to be incorporated in the original Dutch version of this Document. For more detailed information on this we refer to the English version on the AEA-Europe website.