

**Notes of ESWRA General Assembly
Wednesday May 5th 2021**

ESWRA members: Sofie Aggerbo Johansen, Silvia Fargion, Antonio Sama, Darren Hill, Miguel Angel Puido, Elaine Sharland, Elena Allegri, Sandra Romero, Pentaris Panagiotis, Urban Nothdurther, Ana Sobocan, Catrine Tøgbjorn Halas, Claudia Zanchetta, Diletta Mauri, Erik Jansen, Friedegard Foltz, Jean Pierre Wilken, Justin Raj, Lars Uggerhoj, Linda Lungaard, Linda Oppedijk, Monsoor Kazi, Martine Ganzevles, Maxine Bell, Monica Kjørstad, Ravit Alfandi, Tor Slettobo

ESWRA Board members present: Marcin Boryczko (MB), Gdańsk University, Poland; Inge Bryderup (IB), Aalborg University, Denmark; Elena Cabiati (CE), Catholic University of Milan, Italy; Emilio Jose Gomez Ciriano (EGC), *Secretary*, University of Castilla-La Mancha; Spain; Liz Frost (LF), University of the West of England, UK; Koen Hermans (KH), *Treasurer*, KU Leuven, Belgium; Ephrat Huss, University of the Negev, Israel; Florin Lazar (FL), University of Bucharest, Romania; María Inés Martínez-Herrero, (IMH) University of Essex, UK Judith Metz,(JM) *Chair*, Saxion Hogeschool, Netherlands; Alessandro Sicora (AS), *Chair-elect*, University of Trento, Italy; Ozan Selcuk,(OS) Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Turkey; Florian Spensberger (FS), Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Germany Jon Symonds (JS), *Vice Chair* University of Bristol, UK; *Karen Winter (KW), Queen's University, UK.* In attendance: Claire Prater, ESWRA Executive Administrator, Minutes.

Total number of members present = 45 the meeting was quorate.

Item General Assembly Discussion

1 Welcome

ESWRA Chair Judith Metz welcomed ESWRA members to the Association's General Assembly. JM introduced new Board members; Ozan Selcuk, Florian Spensberger, Florin Lazar, she then reviewed the agenda and asked members whether they had any other items they wanted to raise. There were no questions or additional items.

The membership welcomed the new Board members and congratulated them with their election.

2 Outcome of votes for 2020

ESWRA Secretary, Emilio Jose Gomez Ciriano, confirmed that the members had, by electronic vote during the summer of 2020, approved the following items:

- Notes from the GA 2019
- Record of Board decisions 2019
- Approval of accounts 2019
- Auditors for the ESWRA Accounts 2020

The General Assembly offered no further questions or comments

3 Record of decisions of the Board 2020 and Matters Arising

JM said that of all the decisions made by the Board In 2020 the most difficult one was to postpone ECSWR 2020 to May 2021, and then the subsequent decision that the Conference would be held online. We took those two decisions with pain in our hearts but also felt that there was no other option. Not having a conference at all would be unthinkable.

Luckily there were also developmental perspectives to think about for ESWRA: the possibility to develop own ESWRA journal. After approval from the General Assembly in 2019 the Board has been working on

the further exploration of this possibility and established the ESWRA Journal working group led by Board member Inge Bryderup.

The General Assembly approved unanimously the Board’s decisions taken in 2020.

4 Finances

Note: ESWRA’s Financial Year is 1st January – 31st December

Koen Hermans, ESWRA Treasurer, reviewed the profit and loss account for financial year 2020. He said that postponing the conference from 2020 to 2021 has had financial repercussion for ESWRA resulting in a loss of €41,192.00.

KH went on to explain that the membership fee paid in 2020 as part of the registration fee will be shown as income in FY 2021 because it is preferable in accountancy terms that the membership fees are associated in the year in which the conference takes place. This decision was arrived at after discussion with ESWRA’s accountant and the Board.

At the end of financial year 2019 ESWRA had reserves of €104,000.00 this surplus enabled ESWRA to manage the loss in financial year 2020. Over the next few years financial aim will be to increase ESWRA’s reserves to the 2019 level. Auditors have signed the certificate.

The fact that ESWRA had a healthy reserve at the end of FY 2019 of €104,607.00 this meant that the Association was able to withstand the financial pressure of not only postponing the Bucharest conference from 2020 to 2021, but also to pay the Association’s running costs which amount to approximately €60K per annum, this figure includes the Executive Administrator’s salary and financial and web services.

Approval of Accounts January -December 2020

Dr Kirsteen Laidlaw and Prof. Dr. Saskia Keuzenkamp ESWRA’s Auditors informed the Assembly via the signed Account Audit Certificate, see [appendix 1](#) that the ESWRA accounts report for Financial Year January – December 2020 is a factual and accurate representation of the Association’s spend and income.

ESWRA Accounts January 1st – December 31st 2020

European Social Work Research Association Balance sheet as per December 31, 2020

	<u>31-dec-20</u>	<u>31-dec-19</u>		<u>31-dec-20</u>	<u>31-dec-19</u>
	€	€		€	€
Assets			Liabilities		
Fixed assets	352	553	Equity	63.118	104.607
	60.920				
Liquid assets		104.054	Current liabilities		
			Accounts Payable	-1.846	
			Accrued Liabilities		
Total	<u>61.272</u>	<u>104.607</u>	Total	<u>61.272</u>	<u>104.607</u>

**European Social Work Research Association
Profit and loss account for the year 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	€	€
Member contributions	2.122	48.384
Conference and Events		23.094
Other income		
Total net Proceeds	<u>2.122</u>	<u>71.478</u>
Conference and Event costs	1.000	1.060
SIG Funding		
Journal	4.024	5.756
Gross turnover result	<u>-2.902</u>	<u>64.662</u>
Expenses		
Board Charges	1.741	13.104
Administration costs	36.549	36.074
	<u>38.290</u>	<u>49.178</u>
Operating result	-41.192	15.484
Financial costs	296	615
Result	<u>-41.488</u>	<u>14.869</u>

**European Social Work Research Association
Notes to the profit and loss account for the year 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	€	€
Conference and event Cost		
Other Conference costs		
Award Prizes	1.000	1.060
	<u>1.000</u>	<u>1.060</u>
Administration costs		
Printing and shipping	364	489
Website	4.440	4.440
UK Office	26.389	25.533
Accountancy	4.356	4.719
Trademark		
Other Costs	799	692
Depreciation	201	201
	<u>36.549</u>	<u>36.074</u>
Financial costs		
Bank Charges	275	280
Paypal Charges	21	20
Currency loss		315
	<u>296</u>	<u>615</u>

The General Assembly approved ESWRA’s finance management in FY 2020 - no objections

Budget 2021

Estimated income and expenditure €160K means in 2021 will have a small surplus to underwrite estimates, the income and expenditure must be confirmed in the following month but based on the LOC. In the end means that have a surplus of 64K€

ESWRA balance 2021	
Total income	€ 164,089.00
Total expenditure	€ 160,491.02
ESWRA profit / loss 2021	€ 3,597.98

Reserves at the end of financial year 2020 are € 61,272.00.

Reserves at the end of financial year 2021 are estimated to be € 61,272.00 + € 3,597.98 = € 64,869

The GA approved the provisional budget of 2021 no objections.

5 ESWRA Board roles and Committees

ESWRA Secretary, Emilio Jose Gomez Ciriano started by saying that ESWRA is a great family of social work researchers. He reminded the members how the ESWRA Board was managed, that Board members are elected by the members, there are 15 Board members. There are four officer roles Chair, Treasure, Secretary and Vice-chair, and currently Chair-elect. Board members’ terms is usually three years. On occasion for reasons of continuity Board members extend their term either for 1 year by Board consent or by re-election for another 3-year period.

The changes to the Board effective on the at the close of the ESWRA Board meeting Friday 7th May 2021.

- Alessandro Sicora will take over from Judith Metz after this conference as the new Chair. Emilio Jose Gomez Ciriano thanked Judith for all her hard work and wishes AS luck in this new role.
- María Inés Martínez-Herrero will take over from Karen Winter’s as the chair SIG Development Committee. KW will remain on the Board, to facilitate the transition

EC stated that he has been in this role as Secretary since November 2020.

The Board has several committees and working groups that are essential for carrying out ESWRA’s works. Emilio invites the chairs to update the GA on the work of their committees.

6 Updates from ESWRA committees and working groups

6.1 Prizes and sponsorship committee

Elena Ciabati said the Supports the development and the promotion of outstanding social work research papers around Europe. Every year ESWRA seeks nominations for 2 annual awards for outstanding publications general and for a paper based on doctoral paper.

The committee is composed of 4 members. She reported that the number of applications for the annual award for outstanding publication in European social work research is increasing each year. This year 24 applications were received from 10 different countries (Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Italy,

Poland, Spain, Sweden, Swiss, United Kingdom). Elena thanked those that had made a nomination. The call for the awards for 2021 will go out this July.

Elena outlined the committee's priorities for 2021 which are to promote ESWRA awards in the scientific community, with the aim to increase not only the number of submissions, but also the sources of the nominations and the quality of the papers; and to revise the review process.

6.2 PHD and Early Career SIG

Florian explained that this SIG is led by the Doctoral members of the Board Ozan Selcuk and Florian Spensberger. Florian went on to say that the main of the SIG is to assist doctoral students and early career researchers in developing their academic and research career and by doing this, we are committed to developing and sustaining the capacity and sustainability of social work research across Europe.

The PHD and Early Career SIG has a 90-minute session in the main conference, this allows students to attend SIG events on the first day of conference. During the conference and of course the between conferences the SIG focused on networking and giving a platform a to doctoral student to get in touch with each other. Ozan went on to say that at ECSWR 2021 as well as facilitating networking there will be a talk on publishing, and a session on the challenges faced by Doctoral students during the pandemic. There were plans to have a 3MT competition, unfortunately this had to be dropped as there were, no submission due to pressure of the c-19 situation.

6.3 Membership Services and Research Resource Committee, (MSRRC)

Liz Frost, Committee Chair started by saying that this is a relatively new committee, about being open and about trying to make connections to members and non-members. The priority is to develop appropriate research resources. Liz outlined the initial task undertaken since the last GA.

Initial tasks: address and report on:

Q 1) what research resources should be available to members only.

Q 2) whether a permanent online infrastructure was a good investment for ESWRA.

A 1) 'back to basics': ESWRA itself should be as open as possible, providing they did not render membership pointless.

A 2) the adoption of a single permanent platform by ESWRA would be too excluding and potentially divisive.

Current priorities

She went on to say that the committee is working on 2 priorities 1) liaise with other committees, e.g., Conference Committee, SIGs, to understand their 'membership services and research resource' needs and seek their contributions to the website. 2) Developing a robust data base for members research activities is ongoing, developing from the very useful foundational work put into place by the last Committee. Communication with all committees to keep under review and responding to membership needs is also a continuing priority.

Liz asked if there were any question. Lars Uggerhøj asked whether there were any plans to develop an online platform that would make it easier to communicate and connect with ESWRA members. Liz replied that the committee would be happy to look at this again. Elaine Sharland said that ESWRA must balance inclusivity and what ESWRA can manage in terms of developing, managing, and sustaining a platform.

Karen Winter said that this discussion has been had before in convenor meetings. There has been a range of opinion and some ISG have resolved by using social media or setting up Teams. Karen agreed with Elaine that if a platform is developed is about inclusivity on the one hand and maintenance on the other.

6.4 ESWRA Journal Working group

Inge Bryderup, Chair Journal working group introduced the ESWRA Journal she explained that discussions had started in 2017 when ESWR received a request to set up a new journal. The ESWRA Journal working group (Ozan Selcik, Jon Symonds, Karen Winter, Inge Bryderup in collaboration with Policy Press) have almost finished the proposal including the aims and scopes, format and content, editorial structure and much more. This proposal will be submitted to Policy Press in the coming month. The assessment of the proposal will take Policy Press around three months to complete. Having worked very closely with Policy Press on the proposal Inge does not anticipate any difficulties. Once the assessment is completed the the Journal's editorial team will start working on the first issue, the aim is to published in the summer of 2022. There where no questions but the members showed their appreciation of the work that has gone into developing the Journal.

The ESWRA Board met on Tuesday 4th May 2021 and approved the appointment of 3 Editors, 10 members of Editorial Bord and 35 members of International Advisory Board, the appointees represent 24 countires.

6.5 SIG Development Committee

Karen Winter, Committee Chair, gave a brief overview of the committee. She stated that the committee has 4 members who are responsible for overseeing SIGs' development, updating the SIG convener Guidelines, checking the SIGs' activity and membership. Karen went on to say that the 24 SIGs form an important part of the ESWRA community /family. The SIGs are in different stages of development the established SIG the 'parents' are well-structured and experiences others are like young children finding their feet. A SIG newsletter is produced twice a year just before the conference and in September.

Karen continued that this year's conference 16 SIGs participated involving 200 participants. One of the committees' main aims is to create contact and small events between Conferences, Karen finished by saying that the committee is open to new ideas and members should feel free to email the committee via the Executive Administrator on info@eswra.org

6.6 European Conference for Social Work Research

Jon Symonds, ESWRA Vice chair said that he provides a link between the ESWRA Board and the local organisation committee. He is involved in forward planning for future conferences as well as working closely with the LOC to make the arrangements for the upcoming conference. This year due to the C-19 ECSWR 2021 had to be moved online. Jon went on to say that the planning for ECSWR 2022 hosted by the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands has been underway for some time. The hope is that the 2022 conference will be a face-to-face conference. The Board have approved for the University Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy as hosts for ECSWR 2023, and the University of Vilnius., Lithuania as hosts for ECSWR 2024. Jon said that the Board are looking forward to a successful conference this and looking forward to the next three years of conferences. Jon finished by saying that if any institution is interested in hosting an ECSWR email info@eswra.org to express interest and for more information.

General Assembly closing comments:

The incoming ESWRA Chair Alessandro Sicora thanked Judith Metz for all that she has done as chair during this particularly difficult time. He also thanked previous chairs for Elaine Sharland and Silvia F for what have they have done in the past. He thanked the members for attending this General Assembly. He felt that the conference started well thanking all those that made it possible.

Elaine Sharland said that it has been a strange experience this year she congratulated everyone on delivering an online conference.

Silvia F said that she remembers when the Association was new there were just a few SIGs, and a lot of ideas / initiatives, development has really accelerated in the past few years thanks to successive Chairs.

JM concluded the GA by thanking the members for attending wishing them a good conference.

Appendix 1



ACCOUNT AUDIT CERTIFICATE

European Social Work Research Association Financial Year January 1st– December 31st 2020

Addressed to

*The General Assembly of the **European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA)***

We: Dr Kirsteen Laidlaw, Health care, Faculty of Medicine Univeeristy of Leeds. and Prof. Dr. Saskia Keuzenkamp, Movisie, Utrecht, Netherlands

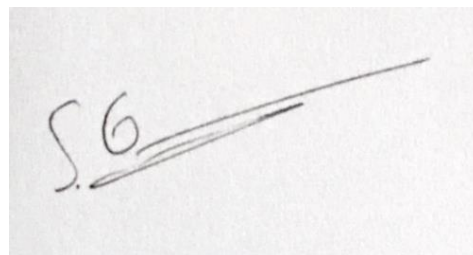
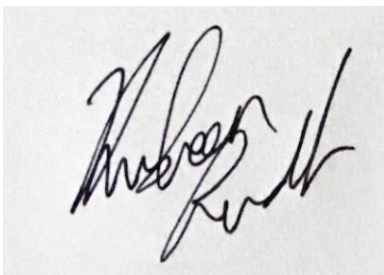
Elected as account auditors by the General Assembly of ESWRA held in Leuven (April 2019), hereby certify that:

- We have conducted an audit relating to the 2020 accounts and Financial Statement of ESWRA.
- We confirm that our audit was carried out in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards respecting ethical rules and based on the relevant legal provisions of the country where the association is registered (Netherlands).
- The above-mentioned Financial Statement was examined and all tests of the supporting documentation and accounting records deemed necessary were carried out to obtain reasonable assurance that, in our opinion, based on our audit:

That the Financial Statements referred to fairly present the financial position of ESWRA and the results of its operations and cash flow for the year 2020, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the Netherlands.

Signed by Kirsteen Laidlaw

Signed by Prof. Dr. Saskia Keuzenkamp



Date: April 2021

Date April 2021