

EES 2020 Annual General Meeting

Monday, 14 December 2020

Prague Congress Centre

Prague, Czech Republic

Time: 17:00 – 18:30

MINUTES of the General Meeting (GM) of **European Evaluation Society**, an association, having its corporate seat in 's-Gravenhage, and offices at Johannes Vermeerplein 11, 1071 DV Amsterdam, registered with the Trade Register of the 's-Gravenhage Chamber of Commerce under number 40413697, hereinafter to be referred to as the **Association** or the **EES**, held in Maastricht, Netherlands on 14th December 2020.

As Chairperson of the Meeting acted Daniele Lamarque, President of the EES.

1) Welcome

The Chairperson opened the Meeting and declared:

- that this is a General Meeting held by virtual electronic means, as per the EES Statutes, Art.16, paragraph 1.
- that in the notice to convene this meeting all issues to be acted upon have been stated, in particularly the information on annual report 2020, EES finances and 2018 audit report.
- The audience can ask questions via chat box and the audience will be asked for feedback by using the polling feature

The Chairperson introduced other presenters: *Secretary General* – Karin Kohlweg, *Treasurer* – Laura Fantini, *Vice President* – Tom Ling, *Board member* – Oto Potluka, TWG 7 Leader and Lauren Weiss, *Communication and Administration Manager*.

The Chairperson presented the AGM Agenda, which was approved by the Meeting.

2) Approval of the General Meeting Minutes 2019

The Secretary General presented the minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting, which took place in November 2019 in Prague via virtual means and asked for comments.

- The minutes were unanimously approved by the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

3) President's Annual Report: Main activities 2020

The Chairperson presented the activities and highlights of the EES in 2020:

- EES Biennial Conference has been planned to be held in September 2020. Due to Covid-19 the conference was postponed to 2021. However, it remains still uncertain, whether it will be possible to hold it physically, fully virtually or both. EES is still investigating in different scenarios.
- No matter what the decision will be, EES will use the 540 submitted abstracts for the online events or the physical conference.
- ConfTool Pro is used to streamline the conference administration, which is a significant improvement for the management of the abstracts.
- Acknowledgement was expressed to the PDWs' team of Ian Davies and Albine Guitard, who were responsible for organizing PDWs in the past conferences, but recently decided to step down. EES is currently redesigning the workshop organization, to adjust to the new framework.
- Significant developments in communication:
 - 6000 followers on Twitter
 - Revised website, tracking visits via google analytics (over 55 000 visits from 8500 visitors since June 2020)
 - EES offers more resources to members and visitors (e.g., EvalEdge Podcasts episodes, database in evaluation times of Covid-19, relaunch the blog)
 - Contribution to Global Campaigns
 - Eval4Action Campaign (Twitter chat, Eval4Action regional consultation: Europe)
 - P2P Advisory for Emerging Evaluators
 - Co-hosted two events organized by EES' partners
 - First Futures Literacy Laboratory for Evaluators, on the Future of Evaluation in Society
 - Better Regulation Forum – Evaluation in Times of Covid-19
- Launch of EES Webinar Series, built from abstracts submitted to EES Biennial Conference 2020
 - Emerging Data Landscape in M&E: Geospatial, Location and Big Data: Where have we been and where can we go? 28 July 2020
 - Transforming Evaluation: Evaluation for the Good Anthropocene, 17 December
- EES responded to several Requests from European Institutions:
 - European Classification of Occupations (ESCO) managed by DG Employment
 - Request from OSCE for Russian translation of OECD DAC Evaluation Criteria
 - EES' presence at OECD DAC Evaluation Criteria Webinar
- Offers for EES members, discounted fees for
 - Evidence for Policymakers Science Works
 - Access to EU research funding by stimulating and demonstrating societal impact, AESIS
 - 20% discount for publications from Routledge.com
- TWGs update:
 - TWG1 – GEKIWIKI platform launched for EES members
 - TWG2 – Wolfgang Meyer was a key speaker in Eval4Action Regional Consultation
 - TWG3 – in discussions to record podcast
 - TWG4 – Ethical Guidelines in process to be adopted by EES, VEPR is currently stopped.
 - TWG5 – 3 quest speakers for p2p career sessions, developed abstracts to jointly represent yEES in major evaluation conferences, contributed to the EES communication activities
 - TWG6 – to co-host EES webinar in 2021

- TWG7
 - newly launched in October 2020, 28 people expressed their willingness to collaborate in TWG 7
 - Workshop “Quality of Life as an Evaluation Criterion”, 10-11 February

4) A brief outlook for 2021 by Tom Ling, the EES Vice-President

- Conference 2021:
 - EES is not able to give a firm decision on this yet but is active on the review and keeping all options open.
 - Decision will be taken in spring 2021.
 - EES will continue with the webinar series in 2021, next webinar “Evaluation in Turbulent Times: Navigating the Evolving Big Data Ecosystem” is taking place on 18-19 January 2021.
- The three scenarios for the upcoming Conference in 2021 were presented:
 - Physical conference in September 2021, including some continuous online webinars (remaining abstracts can be updated/altered, but EES will try to move these on the online activities during the year)
 - Online conference in September 2021
 - Hybrid conference, this option is currently the most expensive and the quality of experiences is unclear.
- Increase EES membership with the support of the Administration and Communication Manager, some of the online activities will be open for EES members only.
- Strengthen the partnership with NESE
- Membership survey will be launched early 2021
- Membership portal (for EES members only), the opportunity for EES members to engage and interact with the EES and would allow members to look up each other to connect, share resources, etc.
- Plan a short video introducing the EES
- Complete audits 2019, 2020 in 2021

Poll 1: Would you be interested in using an EES membership portal?

Results: 80% voted (29 Answers) – Yes 18, No 2, Maybe 8, Don’t know 1

5) EES membership – status of individual and institutional members by Karin Kohlweg, EES Secretary General and Lauren Weiss, EES Communication and Administration Manager

- Membership graph presented with membership numbers in period 2010-2020 incl. information on the number of delegates at EES Conferences.
- Individual membership varies over time, membership always increases before EES Conferences.
- Individual membership has overall declined in the last few years, but it also shows a slight increase again with the end of Nov 2020. The reason for the decline:

- Many other evaluation societies and initiatives have emerged, the EES faces some competition.
 - “Loyalty” towards own “national” evaluation society than towards another one
 - A lot of free evaluation information is available on different websites.
 - Conference participation is paid by the organizations/employers, but individual membership is not.
 - EES has the reputation of mainly being involved in development corporation, which makes it more challenging to attract other groups and networks.
 - EES has a reputation of mainly organizing Conferences.
 - An issue of high EES membership fees
 - EES was not as active as it has been in 2020.
 - EES members also changed posts, careers, and some people retired.
- Number of Conference delegates has increased over the years and in Thessaloniki were over 700 participants, EES members do like to attend the Conferences.
 - Number of institutional members varies between 11 the lowest and 26 highest, 21 institutional membership in Nov 2020.

Membership changes in 2021:

- EES moved to a calendar-based membership starting as of January 2021, with 2021 as a transition period to align with the practices of other national and regional associations and to reduce the administrative burden on the EES Secretariat.
- EES members will be contacted in due time depending on when they need to renew their membership.
- Efforts to be undertaken to increase the EES membership:
 - A big membership push will be implemented in January 2021, aligned with the new calendar-based membership.
 - Targeted communication who are currently not EES members, but attended EES conference or were members in the past, etc.

Poll 2: Do you accept the proposal of implementing the two-year membership option for institutions (a fee of 2000 EUR)?

Results: 78% voted (28 Answers) – Yes 25, No 3

Discussion:

Q1: What will be the advantages for institutions to get the 2y membership?

Answer: So far there is only one category for one year for the fee of 1200 EUR and the new category is a financial incentive for institutions.

Q2: How many persons are included in the institutional membership?

Answer: 5 people can be sent to the conference, the institutions are listed on the EES website with their logo, various options for collaboration e.g., joint events. More benefits are on the EES website.

6) EES Finances /Annual Accounts 2018, 2019 and 2020 by Laura Fantini, EES Treasurer

- The Treasurer presented the figures from the Profit/Loss overview of 2018, 2019 and 2020 accounts. 2020 is updated to the end of November 2020.
- Main source of income is the Conference and the related increase of membership during the conference year.
- Due to Covid-19, the EES has the expected income in 2020 than in a non-conference year.
- New expenditures in 2020 compared to previous years:
 - Investment into the communication, hiring a Communication and Administration Manager Lauren Weiss
 - New website launched.
- Status of bank account (30 November 2020): 52 227,96 EUR.
- 2018 Audit:
 - Audit was focused on EES Secretariat and EES Conference in Thessaloniki
 - 2018 ended with a positive net of 32540,47 EUR conference income and increase of membership.
- A new way of collaboration with the auditor in 2021 in terms of planning and reporting (budget templates, review process) to perform better and on time with the presentation of the audited results and complete the next audit of 2019 and 2020 accounts by June 2021.

The audited financial report of 2018 is considered closed and was adopted unanimously by this Annual General Meeting.

Discussion:

Q1: It seems that EES's net revenues are uncertain. What does this mean for the future financial stability, if no conference is being held in 2021?

Answer: If the conference will not be a physical conference in 2021, EES will get some revenue from an envisaged online conference in 2021. EES is observing the situation around Covid-19 and is already in negotiation with Tivoli in Copenhagen to postpone to 2022, not to cause any loss for EES. The three scenarios of the EES upcoming conferences are still considered, depending on how the situation around Covid-19 will evolve.

7) AGM 2021 and next elections by Karin Kohlweg

- Next AGM is planned end of 2021.
- Next elections will be held in the last quarter of 2021, term of three people is ending in December 2021 (Laura Fantini, Weronika Felcis, Karin Kohlweg), there will be three vacant positions of Board member and one vacant position of vice-president.
- A special thank you and congratulations to Bastiaan de Laat, a leaving Past President, after his 10 years of dedicated work to EES.
- Ananda Millard and May Pettigrew were appointed by the EES Board as co-opted members for 2021.
- Laura Tagle will continue as the EES Conference coordinator.

8) AOB:

There were no further questions raised and the Chairperson closed the meeting.