



## **Report of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies of EAPS**

Thursday 26 June 2014 at the EPC 2014 in Budapest

Attendance: around 90 members

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### **1. Opening by the President**

Francesco Billari opens the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and welcomes the around 90 members who attend. He explains that today two General Assemblies will be held where the main topic of the first Assembly will be the proposed changes in the election system. This would require to change the Statutes and By-Laws and for these changes to become effective, a second Assembly is needed. The agendas and documents for the meeting were circulated to all members. The agendas are adopted without changes.

### **2. Report by the Secretary General and Treasurer**

Marc Luy gives an overview of EAPS activities. He explains that the main tasks of the Council for its current term are the modernization of the administration, the improvement of the organizational structure and increasing the attractiveness of EAPS.

Activities: reviewing the various tasks he mentions the success of European Population Conferences as our flagship event and the activities which take place under the auspices of EAPS such as the European Journal of Population and the European Doctoral School of Demography (separate reports to be presented) and Population Europe. He mentions that the mandates of most EAPS Working Groups have ended, with one exception, namely the successful Working Group on Health, Morbidity and Mortality led by Jon Anson. The Council expresses its gratitude to Jon. The Council invites members to send in proposals for possible new working groups.

The Council intends to revive the book series European Studies of Population (ESPO) which is being published under EAPS auspices by Springer; a call for Editor will soon be launched. As regards the modernization of EAPS, he notes that the proposed changes in the election system, Statutes and By-Laws are key. Last but not least, three new Awards will be presented for the first time at this EPC 2014: the EAPS Award for Population Studies, the Dirk J. van de Kaa Award for Social Demography and the Trailblazer Award for Demographic Analysis. The Council expects that, together with the existing Gunther Beyer Award and the EAPS Poster Awards, these Awards will further increase the attractiveness of EAPS. Priority issues for the second part of the current term of the Council are the EAPS website and membership administration.



*Membership:* Marc Luy reports that current membership amounts to 1344, a gradual increase from 2012, while 66 countries are represented among the membership. The gender balance is slightly in favor of women (54%) as was the case in previous years. Europe is the main region of membership with 77% of members residing here, followed by North America (11%) and Asia (7%). The United States leads the ranking of countries of residence of EAPS members (with 131 members), followed by Germany (114) and the United Kingdom (107). Relative to total population, the share of EAPS members is highest in Estonia, followed by Sweden and Luxembourg.

*European Population Conference:* Marc Luy also reports that the current EPC 2014 saw a total of well over one thousand submissions, had a record number of 116 sessions where again a record number of some 550 papers were presented and the three poster session had a total of 250 posters. In the geographical distribution of EPC participants Western Europe stands out with 36%, followed by Eastern Europe (21%) and countries outside Europe (18%). The United States had the most submissions (101), followed by Spain and Germany, while Spain leads the ranking of countries with the largest number of participants. As to the substantive part, the Families and Households theme attracted most submissions (146) and thus also had most sessions (16), closely followed by the Fertility theme with 141 submissions and 15 sessions. International Migration ranked third as a theme. Marc Luy concludes that EPC 2014 succeeded to maintain the high level of European Population Conferences and once more conveys the congratulations of the EAPS Council to the organizers.

*Finance:* Reporting on the financial situation, Marc Luy presents the Operating Statement of the past two years, showing a positive balance in the EAPS finances. He notes that still some major payments need to be made, for instance regarding the membership subscriptions to the European Journal of Population. He calls on members to pay their Journal subscriptions in time, since EAPS is running a financial risk if members do not pay; he also reminds members to check the status of their EAPS account online and settle any open years. On behalf of the Auditors, Trude Lappegaard informs the General Assembly that the Auditors examined the financial information and have concluded that the EAPS accounts are properly kept.

In the discussion several members express critical views on the relationship with Springer and invite the Council to investigate new options, such as a non-profit online population journal.



### **3. Proposal for Council Elections**

Francesco Billari introduces the proposal to change the way in which Council elections will be organized in the future. He explains that the wish to change the elections became vocal at the 2012 General Assembly in Stockholm, where the Council promised to develop a new system. All members were consulted on the proposal through an email consultation where support was clear. The Council is now happy to put the proposal to a vote in the General Assembly.

The President informs the General Assembly that since the change of elections will require a change of Statutes and By-laws as well, the Council will present the election proposal and the change of Statutes and By-Laws as clarified under the next item of the Agenda as one package. He notes that this is necessary because even small changes in the proposal would unfortunately lead to a major delay in introducing the new election system. He then summarizes the main issues of the election proposal and the changes in the Statutes and By-Laws. He reminds the members that the proposal to change the Statutes is supported by more than the required number of 15 members; all members supporting the proposal are listed in the document that was circulated. The President then opens the floor for discussion. Various members take the floor to express their support for the proposed changes and ask informative questions. It is for instance hoped that the higher frequency of elections combined with the higher number of candidates per post will not discourage members to run for office or Council member; it is also hoped that the good relations with the IUSSP shall be continued. The President then calls the vote which is by show of hands. With no votes against and one abstention, the proposal for a new election system as well as the amendments to the Statutes and By-Laws are accepted by the General Assembly.

### **4. Proposal to change the Statutes and By-Laws**

These proposals were discussed and voted on under item 3 of the agenda and accepted by the General Assembly with no votes against, and one abstention.

### **5. Closing of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The President thanks the members for their confidence in and support for the various changes that will be introduced in EAPS and he closes the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.



## **6. Opening of the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The President opens the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and reminds the members that as of this moment the new Statutes and By-Laws of EAPS are in effect.

## **7. Appointment of new Auditors**

The General Assembly is invited to appoint two Auditors to inspect the financial accounts of the Association. Thanking them for their good work in the past, the Council is happy to nominate Ernestina Coast and Trude Lappegaard for another term as Auditors to hold office until the 2016 General Assembly. The Assembly unanimously accepts this proposal.

## **8. Statements on various EAPS activities**

**European Journal of Population (EJP):** on behalf of the Journal, editor-in-chief Helga de Valk informs the members on the latest developments in EJP. The number of submissions has increased and is now over 100; the acceptance rate is stable around 20%; also the decision time is stable; the number of downloads has sharply increased possibly also due to the new Table of Contents alert which is now being sent to all EAPS members. The current impact factor is 1.3 ranking EJP as number 10 among demography Journals. A new impact factor will be available in July. Noting that the transformation from the old to the new editorial model went very smooth, Helga once more expresses the appreciation of the new editorial team for the great job that the former editors did. Also on behalf of Springer she presents Catherine Gourbin and Dimiter Philipov with a thank you gift in the form of some population publications from the Springer portfolio.

Helga is happy to report that the new Editorial team is working well. There will be an additional change in the team since Book Review Editor Laura Bernardi, who kindly extended her term once, has indicated her wish to step down. The editors and publisher are happy that Anna Matysiak has accepted the invitation to become the new Book Review Editor starting 2015. The editors also announce that EJP will start to feature Special Issues. In 2015 a Special Issue will be dedicated to “demographic effects of European mobility”, while a call for proposals for the 2016 Special Issue will soon be launched. The President thanks the editors for their efforts and wishes the Journal well.

**European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD):** on behalf of the School, Irena Kotowska gives a statement about the current situation of the EDSD which is organized under the auspices of EAPS. EDSD is currently hosted by the Institute of Statistics and Demography of the Warsaw School of Economics with Anita Abramovska as Dean and a cohort of 19 students coming from 14 countries. For the



coming year there were 35 applications, of which 14 were selected. Students mainly come from countries outside Europe. Irena announces that a new Curriculum Committee has been appointed which will thoroughly review the entire EDSD program also taking comments from the students into account; students report that they feel to be overloaded with assignments. Later this week there will be a meeting of the Scientific Board of EDSD where current developments will be discussed. The President expresses the appreciation of the Council for all the work that is done to run EDSD and announces that after the regular two year term in Warsaw which started in 2013, the School will move to La Sapienza University in Rome in academic year 2015 where Alessandra de Rose will be the Dean.

#### **9. Statement on behalf of the Advisory Board**

James Vaupel, the chair of the Advisory Board, informs the General Assembly of the important function of this Board, where all Affiliated Institutions are represented. He reminds the members that initiatives which are now running successfully under the auspices of EAPS, such as the European Doctoral School but also Population Europe, originated in the Advisory Board, which can give solicited and unsolicited advise to the Council. He reports that in the recent brief meeting of the Board, a discussion emerged on how to promote the exchange of senior staff among population institutes; this would obviously need the involvement of the Affiliated Institutions. The Council is invited to take this into consideration. Another issue is how to encourage demographers to apply for ERC grants; he reminds the members that in ERC more applications in a certain discipline translate into more money going to that discipline. The Council is invited to organize a session at the next EPC on how to apply for ERC grants, using the expertise of successful applicants.

#### **10. Venue of the European Population Conference 2016**

Norbert Schneider, the director of the German Federal Institute for Population Research (BIB), is happy to announce to the General Assembly that the Council has accepted the invitation from Germany to host the next European Population Conference in Mainz. The venue of EPC 2016 will be the Johannes Gutenberg University and EPC 2016 will run from 31 August - 3 September 2016. He informs the members that the Johannes Gutenberg University is very well equipped to host the conference while Mainz is a very attractive city on the river Rhine in the center of Germany and in the heart of one of its famous wine regions, known for its friendliness and hospitality. Mainz is very easy to reach, both for European travelers and for visitors from abroad, also due to its good train and road connections and its proximity to Frankfurt airport. The members applaud the invitation from Germany. The President reminds the members of the famous Rheingold saga; he is confident that EPC 2016 will be a worthy successor to the current EPC in Budapest and that the 13<sup>th</sup> EPC will



continue the success story of the EPC. He thanks Norbert Schneider and his team and looks forward to closely collaborate with them.

**11. Any other business**

No other business is brought to the floor.

**12. Closing**

President Francesco Billari closes the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, thanking all members for their participation.

Nico van Nimwegen  
Executive Director