



EAPS Advisory Board, Wednesday, 15 May 2024 (14:00-15:30) Virtual

Chair: Hill Kulu; Co-chair: Andreas Edel

Participants: Tomas Kucera; Elitsa Dimitrova; Kate Dearden; Peter Weissenburger; Seraina Ruegger; Silvia Leek; Lilly Shanahan; Giancarlo Camarda; Öndercan Muti; Liili Abuladze; Teresa McGowan; Aïda Solé-Auró; Paula di Giulio; C. Katharina Spiess; Francois Clanché; Daniela Vono; Christine Schnor; Anne Goujon; Anna Matysiak; Nikola Sander; Jana Vobecka; Nico van Nimwegen; Judith Koops

Report

1. Opening.

The meeting was opened by Hill Kulu, President of EAPS, who welcomed participants and conducted an introduction round. Hill briefly spoke about the function of the Advisory Board, which advises the Council on EAPS's scientific program, with representatives from affiliated institutions providing input. The Advisory Board's role was emphasized as providing advice on scientific and research-related matters.

The agenda for the meeting included electing a chair, discussing the role and involvement of early career researchers within EAPS, exploring the use of different social media platforms, and participating in a European Policy Dialogue on Demography facilitated by Population Europe. Additionally, any other business was open for discussion.

2. Election new chair Advisory Board

During the meeting, the Advisory Board elected a chair. The Nominating Committee had previously selected Clara Mulder from the University of Groningen for this role. Following the committee's nomination, Hill asked the Board to confirm Clara as chair, which was approved through a show of hands. Clara was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Therefore, Hill continued to chair the meeting.

3. Role and involvement of early career researchers (PhD & Postdocs)

During the meeting, there was a discussion about the involvement of early career researchers (ECRs) in EAPS activities. Several already existing initiatives were highlighted, including the EAPS PhD Network, participation in working groups, and involvement in the European Population Conference (EPC). The EPC 2024 offered a 50% registration discount for some EDSD students and introduced new Student Travel Grants. However, EAPS is always looking for new ideas to improve inclusion of ECRs even further.

The following ideas were raised by the council:

- Mentorship programme/network for PhDs and Postdocs, e.g. workshops on grant writing and on academic career in population studies. PhD network is already involved, but can we go beyond that?



- Organisations can stimulate ECRs to get involved in EAPS, e.g. paying for membership. Can we pay conference registration fee and membership fee at the same time?
- Information on benefits of staying with EAPS/ demography for PhDs and postdocs – just a leaflet or perhaps an information package?
- Share information about (methods) training opportunities, i.e. bringing together information on different courses. The newsletter does it already; do we need to go beyond that, e.g. UK has an information platform on social science training courses?
- UG and Master’s level teaching is also important!

4. Social media

During the meeting, the discussion focused on the use of social media platforms, particularly considering a shift away from platform X towards alternatives like LinkedIn. Participants shared their experiences and perspectives on this matter.

- Silvia Leek mentioned trying various platforms like Mastodon, Bluesky, LinkedIn and Facebook. She expressed a preference for X and LinkedIn if a choice had to be made.
- Francois Clanché highlighted the communication team's inclination to retain platform X due to its wide audience reach and concerns about the potential increase in fake news if everyone abandoned it. However, they were open to transitioning to a different platform if a suitable alternative emerged and if supported by memberships.
- Nikola Sander echoed the sentiment that LinkedIn appeared as the most promising alternative to platform X, noting its capabilities for content sharing and job advertisements.

5. European Policy Dialogue on Demography (Chaired by Andreas).

During the meeting, Andreas Edel delivered a presentation on the European Policy Dialogue on Demography, outlining their involvement in EU projects since 2009. He highlighted efforts to inform and engage the European Parliament, including direct meetings with the European Commission Vice-President and Population Europe (PE) experts. The discussion touched upon upcoming events like the Berlin Demography Days and the European Day of Demography.

A new initiative, the Population Europe Policy Lab, was introduced as a platform for engaging policymakers and stakeholders. The Lab aims to address relevant topics, identify stakeholders, determine the best communication strategies, and produce easily digestible publications for policymakers. Organizations were invited to collaborate and make use of Population Europe's resources to foster intra- and inter-national collaborations.

The meeting also discussed utilizing presentation slides from Population Europe to showcase their capabilities at research centers, and providing informational materials like two-pagers for grant applications. The close relationship between EAPS and Population Europe was acknowledged and emphasized.

6. Closing

Andreas closed the meeting, thanking all for their inputs and the lively discussion.

The Hague, May 2024