



EAPS Advisory Board Meeting,

20 April, 14.00 - 14.45, virtual

Report

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by Clara Mulder, chair of the Advisory Board, who welcomed all participants of this joint meeting of the Board with the partner institutes of Population Europe. Clara added that this joint meeting with Population Europe worked well in the past, and EAPS was happy to continue this tradition and thanked Population Europe for its support in organizing the meeting. The meeting was attended by 31 people.

Clara mentioned that while she had been elected by the Board in its May 2024 meeting, this was the first meeting that she chaired, as she was absent from the previous meeting due to illness. The EAPS part of the meeting would take 45 minutes, with the Population Europe part immediately following and chaired by Andreas Edel.

2. Election of the new Chair

Clara invited EAPS Executive Director Nico van Nimwegen to introduce the election procedure for a new chair. Nico informed the Board that, in practice, the term of the Advisory Board chair runs parallel with the term of the EAPS Council. This means that a new chair needs to be elected. Following the EAPS By-Laws, the Nominating Committee of EAPS has proposed Michaela Kreyenfeld for the position of chair. Michaela has accepted this nomination. Proceeding with the election, Clara's proposal that the vote could be taken by a show of hands was accepted, the members of the Advisory Board cast their votes, and Michaela was elected. It was agreed that Michaela would take the chair at item 4 of the agenda.

3. Open Science in Demography

This item was introduced by EAPS President Emilio Zagheni, who explained that the principles and practices of open science are very important for our discipline. To promote this in the EAPS community and involve the Affiliated Institutions, the Council has invited the newly founded EAPS Working Group

Open Science in Demography to present and discuss its mission and plans with the members of the Advisory Board. Ugofilippo Baselini and Arianna Caporali from the WG Steering Committee presented the ideas of the group. They started with the UNESCO definition that "open science consists of a set of principles and practices that aim "to make multilingual scientific knowledge [...] accessible and reusable for everyone [...] for the benefits of science and society" ([United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 2021](#)). They noted that while some fields have embraced this movement, demography has been slower to adopt open science practices. Barriers, both real and perceived, have limited the integration of open science into demographic research practices.

The EAPS Open Science Working Group aims to change this by fostering a culture where open science becomes the norm rather than the exception in demography. They seek to raise awareness of best practices in open science and provide support for demographers looking to implement them in their work. Through a combination of networking, training, and resource-sharing, the group aims to make open science more accessible and practical for the demographic research community. The group is looking for new members to help shape and grow the network, that ideally would include all Affiliated Institutions.

4. Discussion

Michaela took the chair. In the discussion from the floor, it was clear that the initiative of the Working Group was warmly welcomed by the Board. It was mentioned that editors of journals and research funding agencies should also be involved. The issue of open access fees raised by journals, including the European Journal of Population EJP, was mentioned as a barrier to "real" open access; can EAPS do something about that? It was noted that EJP is owned by Springer, and waivers of open access fees had been provided by Springer, but clearly this should be further discussed with Springer. It was also mentioned in the discussion that copyright issues and AI are serious challenges in open science, as well as the sharing of code and data availability.

Noting that these are key issues that need to be followed up, Michaela was sorry to have to close the EAPS part of the meeting in view of the time, and passed the floor to Andreas Edel.