



European  
Sociological  
Association

**European Sociological Association**

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**ESA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Athens – 1st September 2017

Panteion University for Social and Political Sciences

Room: PD.2.34

12.45-13.45

**AGENDA**

- 1. Opening**
- 2. President's report** (Frank Welz)
- 3. Treasurer's report** (Kathrin Komp)
- 4. Reports from other Sub-Committees**
  - Communication and Publications Committee (Marta Soler-Gallart)
  - Conference Committee (Christian Fuchs)
  - National Associations
  - Post-Graduate Research (Airi-Alina Allaste)
  - Research Networks Committee (Laura Horn)
- 5. Discussion of ESA strategies** (Open Access; Advocacy for Social Science)
- 6. Approval of ESA Statutes**
- 7. ESA Bylaws** - proposal for an electronic vote/12 weeks after GA & discussion
- 8. Presentation of the 14<sup>th</sup> ESA Conference in Paris** (27-30 Aug. 2019)
- 9. Results of the elections (Helena Serra) - Introduction of the new President**

## 2. President's Report 2015-2017 (Frank Welz)

### A. Building a voice of and for sociology

For building a voice **of** sociology, the ESA 2015-2017 Executive Committee (EC) focused more sharply on the topic of the ESA 2017 conference “**(Un)Making Europe: Capitalism, Solidarities, Subjectivities**”, by introducing an additional commonly shared plenary session (opening: Harvey/Illouz; special evening: Della Porta/Varoufakis; closing: Brown/Rosa) as well as 4 new specific semi-plenary and Research Streams sessions that further discussed aspects of the main topic (i. Europe, ii. Capitalism, iii. Solidarities, iv. Subjectivities).

For strengthening ESA's voice **for** sociology, we extended our Social Science Advocacy by intensifying the collaboration with the **European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities** (EASSH) and the **Initiative for Science in Europe** (ISE). The President has been elected a Governing Board member of the former, a task force member of the latter and joined a further initiative related to Austria's 2018 EU Presidency.

### B. Strengthening the ESA Headquarters

For enabling a **stronger and proactive ESA**, ESA's conference and office operations have been completely restructured following the very successful model of other big associations. Abstract management, author and participant communication, participant registration, as well as the administrative management of the book exhibition have been “relocated” from the local conference organizers to ESA's Paris headquarters. The move was based on the introduction of the ConfTool conference management software for both, abstract management and participant registration. The move reduces direct conference expenditure by about 170,000 € (2011: 250,000 €; by introducing software, by increasing control of the budget and by reducing charges for Professional Conference Organizers) and enables ESA to have a stable and safe funding of its employees based on a restructured contractual relationship with the local and professional conference organizers. The move has enabled ESA to appoint a **second employee**.

For the first time, ESA has now coordinated conference operations from Paris. French rules apply, e.g., tax exemption in France. Conference payments are done to Paris: for the first time, conference fees and membership fees could be paid by one payment. This innovation has already led to an increase of ESA membership by 1/3, from about 2100 members to about **2800 members**.

The structural change has further been supported by replacing ESA's bookkeeper by a new one who, among others, speaks English and regularly visits the ESA office, by introducing e-banking, by introducing computerised salary management (Sage One Paie) and bookkeeping software (Sage, in progress). Work previously operated manually has been replaced by **automated mechanisms** via the introduction of software (for example, direct invoice printout by members; editing system for newsletter announcements) and well-planned internal **organisational changes** which had been advised by external experts from the fields of accounting, law, bookkeeping, and other scientific associations. I further wrote detailed **manuals** for both, our internal ESA headquarters and conference operations and proposed the same for all other thematic subcommittees. ESA has now been put on a **new organisational, sustainable and proactive basis** – for, in my view, promoting **European sociology as a public good**. The organisational improvements are not an aim in itself, they make it possible for ESA to focus on new tasks during the post-conference year (see below, 3).

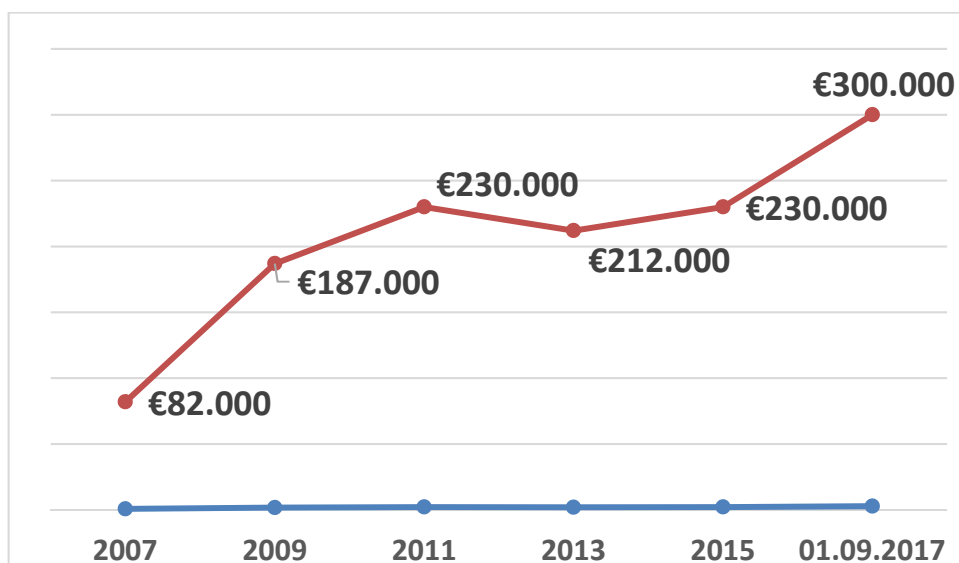
### C. ESA 2015-2017 in short facts

- (1) Restructuration of conference and headquarters operations (new contracts, laws, bookkeeping, distribution of tasks, manuals)

- (2) Move of the ESA office to FMSH, Bureau A2-27, 54, Boulevard Raspail, 75270 Paris Cedex 06, in April 2017 (kindly supported by the President of the Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme, Michel Wieviorka, as well as Olivier Bouin, board of directors).
- (3) Appointment of a second employee, Dr Dagmar Danko since 3/10/2016. Contractual tasks: i. conference coordination; ii. editor European Sociologist; iii. editorial assistance 3<sup>rd</sup> ESA journal, planned: European Sociological Debate, in cooperation with RNs and NAs (inclusion strategy); iv. development of an expert database for media contacts.
- (4) **Open Access** debate launched ([European Sociologist, No. 40](#)). Plan: publishing the “European Sociologist” and a 3<sup>rd</sup> ESA journal based on “Open Journal Systems 3” software with a non-profit university press for agenda setting in a rapidly changing publishing field.
- (5) Interim ESA website & **new ESA website** launched ([www.europeansociology.org](http://www.europeansociology.org))
- (6) New ESA logo launched ([www.europeansociology.org](http://www.europeansociology.org))
- (7) New ESA membership database launched ([www.europeansociology.org](http://www.europeansociology.org))
- (8) New (CMS based) “ESA Newsletter” replacing the previous “Monthly Bulletin”.
- (9) New group email, web content access & new “legalized” RN conference funding “agreement form” for RN coordinators
- (10) New proactive search for the next conference venue: **Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne**
- (11) New salary management and bookkeeping software (in progress) introduced
- (12) New salary structure (reference to CNRS classification schemes)
- (13) New interim employee Andreia Batista Dias (sec.) from Apr.-Sept. 2017. Interns Christine Frank (Feb.-May), Veronika Riedl (Apr.-Aug.), Thomas Caubet (June-Aug. 2017).
- (14) **Obstacle overcome**: loss of the previously agreed conference site in Athens (need to identify a new conference venue in summer 2016, change of conference planning)
- (15) Obstacle overcome: employee’s sick leave for four months in late 2016
- (16) Obstacle overcome: loss of the previous ESA office
- (17) Obstacle overcome: loss of the previous ESA website (hacking attack)
- (18) Major challenge overcome: operating the “old” system of manual activities in the ESA office while in parallel planning and introducing new **automated** processes as well as all new processes around conference abstract submission and participant registration.
- (19) Result of the technical changes: New peak in **ESA membership** (increased by about 1/3):

year	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	1 Sept. 2017
members	758	1731	2126	1965	2118	2741 +100 pending
fees in € (estimated)	82,000	187,000	230,000	212,000	230,000	300,000

(20) ESA membership fees (estimated, 108 €/member)



#### (21) ESA 2017 Conference in Athens

- **3581 participants** (new peak) from 77 countries (big ten: Greece, UK, Germany, Italy, Poland, Turkey, Finland, France, Sweden, Russia)
- 1332 new ESA members via conference registration
- 5160 abstract submissions; 5288 users of ConfTool (registration system)
- acceptance rate: 47% to 99% (anonymous peer review of abstracts by 37 RNs/13 RS)
- (semi)plenaries: new bottom-up abstract submission resulted in: the rate of a) **non-native English** and b) **female speakers** roughly doubled to about 60% each.
- 11 time slots only for RN/RS sessions (no competition, no other sessions types parallel)
- RN sessions: new optional session types, RN keynote & RoundTable sessions, for extending options for RN coordinators (and the audience)
- new fee categories: unemployed (35), student group ticket (1).
- lowest conference fee since 2009 (in average): 195 €

(22) Voters for the ESA elections

2009	2011	2013	2015	2017
440	457	329	779	1087

#### D. International relations

The President has been invited to participate in conferences of the following National Associations and Centers of Sociology:

- China: Lanzhou (17.07.16)
- China: Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing (21.07.16)
- India: Bhubaneswar (27.12.15)
- Israel: Tel Aviv (25.01.16)
- Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of: Skopje (25.11.16)
- Portugal: Faro (08.07.16)
- Russia: St. Petersburg (10.11.16)
- Slovenia: Ljubljana (6.11.2015)
- Turkey: Ankara (01.12.16)

I delivered **keynote speeches** on topics such as “The Task of Sociology”, “Protest - how to understand people’s movements in Europe”, “Contemporary European Sociology: Conditions of Knowledge Production”, “Cultivating Differences - Rethinking Sociology with C. Wright Mills”. Chinese and Indian sociologists are eager to establish contacts and exchanges with European sociology. In addition, seeing sociologists from a variety of other national associations and discussing with them has been an eye-opener and has provided me with further arguments for strengthening the inclusion strategy of the ESA.

From 2015 to 2017, I actively participated in 11 meetings in Brussels for intensifying **ESA’s role in advocating**, in joint efforts with other organisations, **the social sciences in Europe**.

## **E. ESA Executive Committee 2015-2017**

### **01 Communication and Publications Committee**

Marta Soler (chair), Lena Näre (co-chair), Elena Danilova, Monica Massari, Eleni Nina-Pazarzi, Csaba Szalo, Frank Welz (*European Sociologist & website; journals ES & EJPCS, editorial boards, book-series, relations with publisher*)

### **02 Conference Committee**

Christian Fuchs (chair), Nilay Cabuk Kaya, Tomas Kostecky, Eleni Nina-Pazarzi, Frank Welz (*conference programme, ExeC-LOC-relations*)

### **03 External Relations Committee**

Frank Welz (chair), Sue Scott (chair, NA Council), Airi-Alina Allaste, Kathrin Komp, Marta Soler-Gallart, Csaba Szalo (*relations with EASSH, ERC, ISE, National Associations / ISA and other bodies*)

**Council of National Associations:** Sue Scott (chair, elected by NAs)

### **04 Finance Committee**

Kathrin Komp (chair, treasurer), Tomas Kostecky, Ruth McDonald (*budget & financial report, financial decisions*)

### **05 Nomination Committee**

Helena Serra (chair), Ruth McDonald, Csaba Szalo; Krzysztof T. Konecki, Lukasz Posluszny (both, external members)

### **06 Policy Committee**

Kathrin Komp (chair), Laura Horn (*statutes, by-laws, fee structure, etc.*)

### **07 Post-graduate Research Committee**

Airi-Alina Allaste (chair 2016-2017), Monica Massari, Ruth McDonald, Lena Näre, Helena Serra (chair 2015-2016) (*PhD Workshop 2016 & ESA summer school 2017*)

### **08 Research Network Committee**

Laura Horn (chair, elected by RNs), Nilay Çabuk Kaya, Elena Danilova, Ruth McDonald, Helena Serra

In 2015-17, EC member Hans-Peter Müller could unfortunately not participate in meetings.

Despite a few extreme and unplanned additional challenges (or possibly even because of them), I very much enjoyed four plus two years of serving the ESA. In addition to introducing a few basic formats of the ESA conferences since 2013, including ConfTool, I felt it as a great honour to initially propose the title of the conference twice. Particularly, I am really glad about the success of the long planned restructuring of the ESA headquarters and conference operations. For having made this possible, I am finally most thankful to all Executive Committee members 2015-2017, in particular to the Chair of the Conference Committee, Christian Fuchs, the ESA Headquarters Coordinator, Dagmar Danko and, wholeheartedly, to Apostolos G. Papadopoulos, Chair of the Local Organising Team, Athens.

Frank Welz, Aug. 2017 (rev. 1 Sept. 2017)

### 3. Treasurer's report 2015-2017 (Kathrin Komp)

Finance Committee: Kathrin Komp (treasurer), Tomas Kostecky, Ruth McDonald

In 2015, the fiscal year of the European Sociological Association (previously May to April) was shifted to be equal to the calendar year (January to December). Because of the transition, this report on the term of the executive committee of 2015-2017 Covers 20 months only, whereas reports on previous committees covered 24 months. Some specificities of the financial Statement are due to this shift. The revenues are lower, because royalties and editorial expenses support were paid only once within the reporting period, and because the registration deadline for the ESA Conference, which brings many membership fees, does not fall within the reporting period. Among the expenditures Stands out that the amount of salaries paid increased, which is due to the hiring of additional staff, and that more Research Network support was distributed, which was a decision by the previous executive committee to reduce the high surplus accumulated.

#### Summary of Budget for 4 fiscal years 2013-2016 (sums in €)

Budget year	1/5/13-30/4/14	1/5/14-30/4/15	1/5-31/12/15	1/1-31/12/16
Conference	Torino 2013		Prague 2015	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Surplus from Conference	80000	29204		84277
Membership fees	122090	176379	82531	55669
Interest on money	3464	1009	1106	2019
Royalties (2 Journals)	16098	21125		22381
Support for editorial expenses (2 Journals)	27217	27489		27627
Sick leave insurance	10505		80	
<i>Total Incoming</i>	<i>259374</i>	<i>255206</i>	<i>83717</i>	<i>191973</i>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Office expenses	288	2477	6320	1391
Executive Committee meetings	32701	25381	22709	23836
Council of National Associations meeting		2450		
International and external relations	3511	3760	6727	3940
Newsletter	6000	5900	2950	2950
EJCPS editorial board expenses	4881	6525	2645	6235
ES editorial board expenses	29240	10320	3829	10327
RNs support & affiliations	17756	42675	6501	66035
PhD Workshop	11910	11500	5746	8325
Professional fees (bookkeeper, lawyer)	24631	11232	8604	12067
Staff wages	56451	35292	37641	51939
Other and exceptional costs	4931	2265	5919	16711
Social security tax	19308	12171	12769	18513
Pension funds	3380	2048	2172	3034
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>213921</i>	<i>173996</i>	<i>124532</i>	<i>225303</i>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>45452</b>	<b>81210</b>	<b>-40815</b>	<b>-33330</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>				
Capital and reserves	30/4/14	30/4/15	31/12/15	31/12/16
	188087	269297	228482	195152

## 4. Reports from other Sub-Committees 2015-2017

### Communication and Publications Committee 2015-2017 (Marta Soler-Gallart)

**Members:** Marta Soler-Gallart (Chair), Lena Näre (co-Chair), Elena Danilova, Monica Mas-sari, Eleni Nina-Pazarzi, Csaba Szalo, Frank Welz

**European Sociologist.** The former “Newsletter of the ESA” turned into “European Sociologist”, with a new format trying to make it more appealing to the ESA members. It changed format into three sections (For Sociology, From ESA, For Sociologists) and it is launched twice a year. All members are encouraged to contribute. Since 2017 it will be managed from the ESA Headquarters office. Especial thanks to Peter Holley for all the work during these years to develop the newsletter project.

**ESA journals:** Editors of “European Societies” and “European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology” were invited to the Executive Committee meeting to report about journals’ achievements and challenges and discuss future paths. This will be done from now on, on yearly basis. “European Societies” chair of the Editorial Board had to be replaced, but instead Exec decided to eliminate this position and give more autonomy to the Editor (who will report annually). Reports from ES and EJPCS’ achievements were shared in the “European Sociologists” with all ESA members.

**Open Access:** After several debates, the Executive Committee has agreed that ESA should adopt and open access strategy for their publications in the long term. ES and EJPCS will remain with Routledge by now, but ESA will start a new journal in new OA format. The proposal is “European Sociological Debates”, new open access journal, using OJS software, published with a non-profit publisher and supported by the ESA headquarters’ office.

**RN publications:** There was a proposal from RN11 to start a new ESA journal: “Emotions and Society”. Executive Committee welcomed this initiative but considered there needs to be an RN policy about this type of proposals before launching an RN journal under ESA, due to associated costs to such project.

**Website and social media:** A new website and logo has been launched. The website has improved not only image but also possibilities for RN use and members’ participation. The Monthly Bulletin has turned into “ESA news” and will be linked to the announcements in the website (Opportunities). Future steps to be done: ESA Twitter and Facebook must be activated.

**Conference:** After the success in Prague, the Publications Committee organized a Midday Special session on “How to write a journal article and get it published”. Editors from the ESA journals “European Sociologist” and “European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology” and the ISA journal “International Sociology” have been invited to debate with audience.

## **Conference Committee 2015-2017 (Christian Fuchs)**

Members: Christian Fuchs (Chair), Nilay Cabuk Kaya, Tomas Kostelecky, Eleni Nina-Pazarzi, Frank Welz

Some key aspects and features of the 2017 ESA conference in Athens are the following ones:

- There were 3,155 registered participants and 2,912 scheduled presentations.
- The conference was organised in the form of 37 research networks, 16 research streams, 13 mid-day specials, 13 semi-plenaries, and 3 plenaries.
- A full-time ESA executive assistant was hired in the Paris office (Dr Dagmar Danko), whose work tasks include assisting the conference organisation. This work allows to avoid having to replicate many standardised tasks locally from scratch at each conference because many routines can be handled via the Paris office and the executive assistant can be moved from one conference to the next.
- The number of plenary sessions was increased from two to three in order to give more space to general discussions of grand sociological challenges in contemporary society.
- The general assembly and the conference party were moved from the third to the last (fourth) conference day in order to make the last day more attractive.
- Semi-plenaries were offered in two variations: (a) a mode with suggested and invited speakers, (b) a mode with open submission on a theme, peer-review and selection of two speakers. At the 2017 conference, five semi-plenaries were organised in mode (a) and eight in mode (b).
- In 2017, the option existed for research networks to organise one keynote session, in which they feature one speaker whose topic is of particular relevance to the RN, along with discussants. Six RNs made use of this option.

For the 2019 conference, it was decided that the conference should take place in a part of Europe and in a country, where it had not been hosted before. Paris and France were a feasible choice. Universities in Paris have been actively addressed to host the conference.



## **National Associations 2015-2017 (Sue Scott)**

### **Professor Sue Scott, Chair of the ESA National Associations Council**

#### **Communication:**

I have tried very hard, in conjunction with the ESA office to keep the National Associations email list up to date and it is now a mail list managed by the office. This has not always been easy or successful, but the task should get easier now that we have a dedicated space in the new website for the National Associations which I hope will develop in to a place where NAs can communicate with each other as well as with the ESA.

#### **Conferences:**

It was agreed in conjunction with the President and via consultation with the NA representatives to hold the National Associations Conference in the run up the ESA Conference in Athens on August 29<sup>th</sup> 2017. Previously this meeting had been held in Paris in the October of the year between the ESA Conferences. It was felt that for many of the smaller associations the cost of sending a delegate to both a seperate NAs Conference and the ESA Conferences was just too much to bear. It was hoped that more delegates would attend both conferences if they were aligned. The 2017 NAs Conference is on the Theme of Research Assessment and Research Impact with keynotes from John Holmwood, University of Nottingham, and Marta Soller, University of Barcelona, followed by workshop discussions and feedback from the delegates on these issues in relation to sociology in their countries.

Sadly I was unable to attend the ISA Conference of National Associations in April 2017 because the date was changed at a late stage. I did however submit a presentation on the effects of 'neoliberal' policies on sociology ' which was presented by Professor Lynn Jamieson, President of the British sociological Association.

#### **The State of Sociology in Europe:**

I have attempted to gather information about the health (or otherwise) of Sociology, in Universities across Europe, by asking the representatives of the NAs to respond to a set of questions. I have had a number of responses and hope to elicit more, after which I will compile a short report for the *European Sociologist*. Suffice to say here that while sociology does not see to be under any targeted threat there are policies and their intended and unintended consequences, in many countries, which can make it difficult for our discipline to thrive

#### **Elections:**

The meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> will also include a business meeting for the election of the next chair of the Council. I am unable to stand again as I have been nominated to stand as President. There are two candidates for this election:

Professor Linda McKie, University of Edinburgh, UK

Professor Sokratis Koniordos, University of Crete, Greece

It has been a privilege to act as Chair of the Council of National Associations and I wish its members well in the future.

## **PhD Committee 2015-2017 (Airi-Alina Allaste)**

Summer school between conferences was organised by Helena Serra in **New University of Lisbon- FCSH, PORTUGAL from June 19-21, 2016.**

25 students were selected from 55 applications. Instructors included Helena Serra, Airi-Alina Allaste, Monica Massari, Ruth McDonald, Lena Näre and one additional lecture was given by a local instruction, Dalila Cerejo.

The Summer School was organised around the preparation of papers for publication. Students prepared written papers, which were pre-circulated to teachers and other students. The 2 days consisted of group work, a keynote from Monica Massari (“(Un)making Europe across the Mediterranean: trajectories and narratives of migrants en route”); a lecture on mixed methods from Dalila Cerejo; a presentation from Lena Näre on Publishing and Career Planning; and a Round Table session reflecting on the content of the papers (student rapporteurs from each group presented).

Pre-conference summer school is organised by Airi-Alina Allaste in **Athens, Greece from August 26-28, 2017.**

25 students (3 of them cancelled) were selected from 106 applications. Instructors included Airi-Alina Allaste, Helena Serra, Eleni Nina-Pazarzi, Monica Massari, Ruth McDonald, Lena Näre and one additional instructor to facilitate the media workshop - Katrin Tiidenberg.

The summer school, too, was organised around the preparation of papers for publication, in addition participants had to review one of their peer’s draft article. Lena Näre gave a general lecture on publishing. For the first time, this ESA Summer School also included a media session on public facing scholarship and media literacy (sharing scholarship with the public via media and via efficient self presentation on social media, etc). The media session included a lecture by Katrin Tiidenberg and session with feedback on PhD students’ pre-prepared assignments on public facing scholarship.

## Research Networks Committee

Members: Laura Horn (chair, elected by RNs; RN Council chair, horn@ruc.dk), Nilay Cabuk Kaya, Elena Danilova, Ruth McDonald, Helena Serra

ESA currently has 37 research networks constituting the core of the organisations' activities, in sessions at the general conference as well as various other events such as mid-term conferences, PhD workshops etc. RNs have made crucial contributions to the overall growth and development of ESA, qualitatively as well as quantitatively. In the period 2015-2017, most RNs have successfully organised mid-term conferences for which they have received funding from ESA (up to 2500€).

### ***RN relationship with ESA***

The RN committee has been reviewing the mid-term funding applications according to criteria set out in the by-laws and RN guidelines. In general, the funding applications we received from RNs have been clear both in terms of content and budget. In a few cases, the committee had to ask for clarification and revision.

Overall, the relationship between the RNs and ESA has become more institutionalised, e.g. due to financial reporting requirements under French (accounting) law. It has also become clear that it is important to safeguard the interests of RNs in the overall organisation of ESA conferences, which also means increasing the communication between RNs and Executive. In general, RNs have been satisfied with the relationship with ESA.

### ***Major ongoing issues for 2015-2017***

- RNs have been consulted for the revision of the ESA by-laws, which specify various aspects of RN governance. The by-laws need to be approved by the General Assembly (possibly in an electronic vote). The RN guidelines have also been revised and will be put to vote in the RN Council in Athens.
- One of the issues that remain to be discussed is the question of financial administration and bank accounts. The proposed by-laws and guidelines clarify questions on e.g. how ESA money can be spent, and how funding can be carried forwards.
- RN coordinators are increasingly highlighting the high workload in RN boards, in particular regarding conference organisation. For some RNs, it has become difficult to recruit new board members. Similarly, it has been impossible to find more than one candidate for the RN Council Chair position, despite the controversies surrounding the election in the previous term.
- ESA has a new website and database which will make it easier for RN coordinators to access data on membership and communicate with their members. RNs can now also have their own pages on the ESA website. RNs should consider how they can make best use of these possibilities from now on.
- The Paris office continues to develop, after major restructuring in 2016/2017. The administrative support from the secretariat, as well as the work of Dagmar Danko, the ESA coordinator, is very much appreciated!

The RN Council meeting takes place on Tuesday 29 September 2017, 12.45 – 15.30 (Pantheon University PC.2.14), all RN coordinators and vice-coordinators are welcome.

**On behalf of the RN Committee, many thanks to the RN coordinators and board members for their hard work for making 2015-2017 a successful period for their RNs!**

# RN membership as of 08/2017

