



EASSH General Assembly
— Brussels, October 28th, 2015 —

At the EU Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi)
Rue du Trône 98 B- 1050 Bruxelles

The General Assembly is opened by Lejf Moos, acting president of EASSH, who recalls the past achievements, the current objectives as well as the future actions to be undertaken by the Association.

EASSH ORGANISATION

Olivier Bouin, representing NetIAS, introduces the session.

MEMBERSHIP

Following the decisions of the Constitutive Assembly of January 16, 2015, the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities was created with the legal status of non-profit association under the French law (June 3, 2015).

The interim Executive Committee (Poul Holm, Theo Wubbels, Olivier Bouin) nominated by the founding members, launched in July 2015 a membership campaign. Olivier Bouin summarizes the current state of the membership process (see annex I):

Founding members:

- 8 founding members have already paid their contributions and an additional one (HERA) will join after their annual meeting due in February 2016

Institutions, Associations and Academies Members:

- 18 members have registered and paid their contributions
- 31 members who were invited to join have not registered yet.

The Assembly validates the membership outcome and supports the deepening of the membership campaign in the coming months. Members are requested to participate in the dissemination of the membership campaign to be coordinated by the Secretary.

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD (*Conseil d'administration*)

- Representatives of the founding members: The Assembly takes stock of the nomination by the founding members of their three representatives to the Board: Poul Holm, Theo Wubbels, Olivier Bouin.

- Representatives of the higher education and research institutions, associations and academies members: The Assembly validates the two-step process (consultation then



electronic voting) and the calendar (November/December 2015) for the nomination of the three representatives of the members of higher education and research institutions, associations and academies to the Board.

- Co-opted personalities: The Assembly validates the principle of a meeting of the six representatives to the Board to nominate the three co-opted individuals in January of February 2016 to complete the composition of the Board.

The Assembly elects unanimously Poul Holm as President and Olivier Bouin as Secretary and Treasurer of the EASSH Association.

PROCESS FOR VALIDATING STRATEGIES AND POSITIONS

The Assembly validates the principle of the definition of the EASSH strategy by the General Assembly and the validation of EASSH positions by the Board of Trustees.

Call for contributions will be sent to all members as well as notifications when new positions are issued.

EASSH STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

Didier Georgakakis, representing ECPSR, introduces the session.

EASSH POSITION REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HORIZON 2020

The Assembly regrets that the way the European Commission implements the embedding process for SSH in H2020 and the budget commitments for the Societal Challenge n°6 is detrimental to SSH communities.

The Assembly validates the strategy of informing key actors and stakeholders of the unsatisfactory treatment of SSH in H2020. EASSH will continue to draw the attention of the Commissioners as well as the MEP (especially the ITRE Committee).

The Assembly agrees that EASSH will have to participate actively in the mid-term review of H2020 as well as the post-FP7 evaluation, will liaise with other collective actors and should quickly emerge as a major stakeholder.

The Assembly validates the creation of a working group on EASSH strategies and positions to be coordinated by Didier Georgakakis. Members are encouraged to nominate a participant in this working group and to actively contribute to its work.

SCIENTIFIC ISSUES

Theo Wubbels, representing EERA, introduces the session.

The Assembly agrees that the participation of SSH needs to be strengthened in the societal challenges of H2020 in order to better reflect its high contributive potential.



The Assembly considers that the process of SSH embedding needs to be significantly reorganised (wording of the topics, criteria for project evaluation, composition of expert groups, “flagging” policy) to give a fair share to SSH.

The Assembly considers that a good balance needs to be found between applied research and fundamental research.

The Assembly validates the creation of a working group on EASSH scientific issues to be coordinated by Theo Wubbels. Members are encouraged to nominate a participant in this working group and to actively contribute to its work.

IMPACT AND OUTREACH

Poul Holm, representing ECHIC, introduces the session.

The Assembly considers that EASSH should devote specific attention to the question of adequate impact measurement of SSH research.

The Assembly agrees that EASSH should constitute a repository for data, analyses, studies and reports on these issues. This repository would be accessible to EASSH members in order to help build on the accumulated expertise.

The Assembly considers that SSH should better articulate how it translates its research and scientific production into innovative societal impact.

The Assembly underlines that assessment should be carried out according to science’s own criteria so as to preserve the autonomy of research.

The Assembly validates the creation of a working group on EASSH scientific issues to be coordinated by Poul Holm. Members are encouraged to nominate a participant in this working group and to actively contribute to its work.

CONCLUSIONS

The Assembly considers the EASSH should not be focussed exclusively on H2020 but should look at a broader agenda and investigate other important issues with and from a SSH perspective such as Open science, Open innovation, Interdisciplinary research...

The Assembly will reconvene in June 2016.