

The President's Report on Council activities 2017-2018

Everything is set for the 17th General Assembly and Conference in Bucharest in June 2018. We thank Joan Marsh and the Programme Committee for their excellent work on the Conference programme and organization of the meeting.

This is the time when the new Council will replace the old one – I want to use this opportunity to thank the members of the Council who worked together since 2015. This was the time of some strategic changes and we are sure that EASE will continue to develop to serve the editorial community in Europe and beyond. We have also fully implemented the new EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679, which ensures data protection and privacy of EASE members.

EASE currently has 445 members, with 32 new members since January 2018. The members have continued to enjoy EASE membership benefits, particularly in networking on social media and training and professional events. We have also revised the membership types and rates to encourage individuals and groups to join EASE. At the Conference in Bucharest, we organized “Meet the EASE Council” breakfast for Saturday, 9 June, so that the new EASE members

The EASE strategy continues with its successful implementation in the three pillars of the EASE strategy: 1) Improving global standards, 2) Raising the profile of science editors and 3) Supporting professional development. A newsletter is regularly sent to members, and the response is very positive. In addition to the EASE Gender Policy Committee, the new Peer Review Committee (PRC) has been created. Its creation coincided with the 2017 Peer Review week, and their first activity was to launch a public forum to discuss issues around peer review. The PRC has also worked with the COST Transdomain Action on “The New Frontiers in Peer Review” – PEERE, to organize a Training School on Peer Review, in Split, Croatia, 15-17 May 2018 (<http://www.peere.org/school/>).

EASE also keeps active involvement in the REWARD Alliance on preventable waste in research and has nominated the Gender Policy Committee (GPC) and its SAGER guidelines for the Cochrane-REWARD prizes for reducing waste in research in 2017. The GPC did not win the prize but this nomination contributed to the visibility of GPC and EASE.

EASE is continually improving its web-site, adding new features and functionalities and expanding presence on social media.

Ksenija Baždarić and the Editorial Board of the *European Science Editing* continue to improve the most important EASE publication. The new *ESE* website is now fully functional, and the archive of the journal is online from 2003, with the plan to digitalize and upload the whole archive of the journal. The Spanish abstracts are incorporated into web pages. The journal issues are printed and distributed on time, with the August issue ready for production.

ESE continues to be a part of the CrossRef, HINARI, AGORA, OARE and ARDI programmes of Research4Life, and to be indexed in the Scopus bibliographical and citation database. *ESE* continues to be active on Twitter ([@Eur_Sci_Ed](https://twitter.com/Eur_Sci_Ed)), with around 450 followers currently, double than in the previous years. Finally, *ESE* is very visible through its [EASE Journal blog](#), which has more than 2000 pageviews per month.

The EASE Author Toolkit on the EASE website is regularly updated by Sylwia Ufnalska, as are the *EASE Guidelines for Authors and Translators* in more than 20 languages). Sylwia is responsible for EASE Wikipedia pages – members are welcome to contribute to them and keep them growing.

Duncan Nicholas has taken over the management of the EASE website and EASE social media accounts. In 2017, we revised the formats for the Author Toolkit, created the new Reviewer Toolkit and new Conference pages, revised format Gender Policy Committee page, and created the new Peer Review Committee page.

The EASE website has received an average of 7,100 page views per month in 2018. Our Twitter account is [@EASEeditors](#) and has 1,196 followers, with an average of 19,496 impressions per month in 2018 (up from 5,301 in 2017). [EASE Facebook group](#) has 493 members and [EASE Facebook page](#) has 316 Likes, an average of 259 monthly page engagements and 5640 monthly total reaches in 2018 (up from 79 engagements and 743 reach in 2017).

The Regional Chapter programme continues to be successful. María del Carmen Ruíz Alcocer of AMERBAC and the Mexican Chapter of EASE provide Spanish translations of abstracts of ESE original articles and essays. The abstracts are freely available on the website. She is also translating *The Science Editors Handbook* Second Edition into Spanish. Paola de Castro continues to successfully represented EASE at AMERBAC (Mexican Association of Biomedical Editors) annual meetings. The Italian Chapter reports regular meetings. There is an initiative to establish an Indian EASE Chapter. The Croatian Chapter organized a successful workshop for editors in social sciences and humanities in Rijeka, 27-28 April 2017, with participation from Ana Marušić and Pippa Smart.

The [Gender Policy Committee \(GPC\)](#) continues its excellent work. We were sad to say goodbye to Shirin Heidari, who left the president position due to family obligations. Paola De Castro took over and continued to temporarily and successfully serve as the co-chair of the Committee, together with Tom Babor. After the conference in Bucharest, Joan Marsh, already an active GPC member, will take over the leadership with Tom. Paola will continue to be the member of GPC.

Sex And Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) guidelines, produced by the GPC, have been endorsed by a number of individual journals and is posted on the EQUATOR Network site (<http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/sager-guidelines/>). The HPC website is regularly updated with news and new members. GPC members actively participated in several scientific meetings and presented SAGER guidelines.

In the last year, GPC members were involved in the preparation of a H2020 proposal on gender issues in research. EASE is a project partner in the consortium of 6 institutions.

Several members of EASE have organized or participated in training courses, representing EASE all over the world, with the leading role of Paola De Castro, the Chair of the Training Committee.

EASE continues to formally support the AllTrials campaign: Sylwia Ufnalska compiled and submitted our official response. The aim is to increase the accountability and availability of results from clinical trials.

EASE also continues its presence at external conferences and meetings: 2017 has been a particularly active year.

Ana Marušić participated as the EASE President in the Stakeholder Workshop of the EU project ENERI, Athens, Greece, 29 September 2017 – “Does global ethics lead to reliable and responsible

research?”

Joan Marsh gave a talk about the Lancet’s reducing waste in research campaign at PubMet2017 in Zagreb, Croatia on 21 October 2017, where her talk included the SAGER guidelines. She also participated in a round table discussion about the ARRIVE guidelines at the LAVA-ESLAV-ECLAM conference on Reproducibility of Animal Studies in Edinburgh, 25 September 2017.

Joan Marsh also presented EASE at the African journal partnership project in San Diego, May 2017 (<https://www.ajpp-online.org/>).

At the World Conference on Research Integrity, Amsterdam, 28-31 May, 2017, EASE organized the Symposium on Predatory journals, chaired by Ana Marušić, and including EASE members Jocalyn Clark and Jadranka Stojanovski as speakers.

Ksenija Baždarić represented EASE at the Medical Information Conference, Zagreb, 7 June 2017. As in previous years, EASE endorsed Summer School of Scientific Communication: Communicating Science to a Broader Audience in Split, 26-30 June 2017.

EASE also endorsed the Peer Review Conference, organized by the COST Action PEERE, in Rome, 7-9 March 2018.

EASE continues the collaboration with other editorial organizations. EASE president is a Board Member of The Asian Council for Science Editors. EASE continues to be present at CSE and ISMTE and in joint collaborative activities, such as “Core Competencies for Journal Editors”, which were published in BMC Medicine in 2017

(<https://bmcmedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12916-017-0927-0>).

EASE continues to be financially stable, and now has new bank account. The Council has prepared a proposal for an amendment to the Statutes of the EASE in order to achieve a reduction in the number of companies house directors, which should reduce the cost and optimize the authorisation process for the EASE bank account.

EASE has participated in funding bids for a variety of projects. Ana Marusic continues to represent EASE in a COST action on peer review (PEERE), which has organized a session at the Strasbourg Conference and will have its session at the Bucharest Conference. EASE is also supporting an H2020 project HEIRRI – Higher Education Institutions and Responsible Research and Innovation, which started in September 2015 and will end in August 2018. The GPC is waiting for the outcome of their proposal for a H2020 project.

Ana Marušić
President