



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR POPULATION STUDIES

ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ АССОЦИАЦИЯ ПО
ДЕМОГРАФИЧЕСКИМ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯМ

ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE
POUR L'ETUDE DE LA POPULATION

EUROPÄISCHE GESELLSCHAFT
FÜR BEVÖLKERUNGSWISSENSCHAFT

founded

March 31, 1983

President: Francesco Billari
Secretary - General: Marc Luy
Executive Director: Nico van Nimwegen

Honorary Presidents:
Dirk J. van de Kaa, Gérard Calott
Charlotte Höhn, Graziella Caselli
Guillaume Wunsch, Janina Józwiak
Francois Héran

EAPS Advisory Board

Budapest, 26 June 2014

12.30 -13.30 hrs

EPC 2014 at Corvinus University

Report

1. Opening

The chair of the Advisory Board, Jim Vaupel (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany), opens the meeting and welcomes all participants. The meeting is attended by the following representatives from the Affiliated Institutions of EAPS: Zsolt Spéder (Hungarian Demographic Research Institute), Netta Maki (University of Helsinki, Finland), Wolfgang Lutz (Wittgenstein Centre, Austria), Graziella Caselli (University of Rome La Sapienza, Italy), Guillaume Wunsch (Royal Academy of Belgium), Catherine Gourbin (Research Centre on Demography and Societies, Belgium), Janina Jozwiak (Institute of Statistics and Demography, Poland), Norbert Schneider, Federal Institute for Population Research, Germany) and Albert Esteve (Centre d'Estudis Demografics, Spain). Several institutional members gave notice of their absence. EAPS is represented by President Francesco Billari, Secretary-General/Treasurer Marc Luy and Executive Director Nico van Nimwegen.

Jim Vaupel reminds the Board that its main function is to give advice to the Council of EAPS on any issues that the Board deems important. He will briefly inform the General Assembly which meets later today on some of the outcomes of this meeting. The draft agenda is adopted.

2. Scientific program: looking back/looking forward

The Board discusses items from the scientific program, notably the Awards and Working Groups. In addition to the existing Awards (Gunther Beyer Award, Poster Awards), the Council introduced several new Awards (EAPS Award, Dirk J van de Kaa Award, Trailblazer Award) which will be presented for the first time at the Closing Ceremony of EPC 2014. The new awards mark a change of culture and Francesco Billari states that the Council is interested to hear if there is scope for new Awards and if Affiliated Institutions would be willing to support such awards. He also remarks that the current winners will be invited to sit on the Jury's for future awards. Jim Vaupel informs the Board that the recent Berlin Demography Forum, where several EAPS members participated and where also Population Europe is involved, has indicated

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that it wishes to create a new population Award, to be sponsored by the Allianz insurance company. BDF welcomes the involvement of EAPS in this award (define topic, Jury) which would be presented at each BDF. Francesco Billari says that the Council will be most happy to discuss this with BDF. As for topics of new awards, Wolfgang Lutz proposes that EAPS creates a Science Communication Award for outreach activities. This would enlarge the range of the current awards which are all research oriented; he notes that outreach activities are an essential dimension of our discipline; this could perhaps also be the topic for the new BDF Award. The Council will include this in the discussions with BDF.

The Board notes that EAPS activities like the European Journal of Population (EJP), the European Doctoral School for Demography (EDSD), and Population Europe will be discussed at various other meetings during EPC 2014. These activities are doing well and the Board encourages the Council to continue its involvement.

As regards EAPS Working Groups, Marc Luy reports that a recent review showed that only one Working Group is still active, notably the Working Group on Health, Morbidity and Mortality, led by Jon Anson. The mandates of the other groups have expired. The Council considers to invite proposals for new groups from members and would like to hear the views of the Board. Honorary President Guillaume Wunsch, who founded the Mortality Working Group, asks the Council to express its appreciation to Jon Anson, as it takes a dedicated person to make a group work. As regards the invitation for proposals, Honorary President Janina Jozwiak expresses her doubts if there still is a need for Working Groups; this model worked relatively well in the past, but nowadays it seems outdated since there are many other platforms where researchers meet. Norbert Schneider suggests “demographic theory” as a topic for a working group or lab; others suggest to have a sharper focus such as e.g. theories in family development. Honorary President Graziella Caselli suggests “population policies” as a topic, but is aware that Population Europe is already working on this issue. The Council will take these comments into account before it continues to launch new groups.

An issue which was raised by Jim Vaupel is the need for demographers to raise their voice in Brussels, where it was noted that Population Europe is doing a great job, but needs to be endorsed by the Affiliated Institutions as much as possible in lobbying activities. Our discipline needs to be more visible in Europe, where for instance the ageing agenda in Horizon 2020 is currently dominated by the medical sciences. One way to increase visibility is to raise the number of applications in the various European Research Council panels; this will help the discipline since more proposals translate into more money for population research. Affiliated Institutions can play an important



role as they can provide incentives to scholars who apply, for instance through reducing the teaching load, but also by linking junior demographers to seniors. The Council is invited to take this on board and could, for instance, organize a session at the next EPC on how to write a successful proposal, involving ERC laureates. The Council is also invited to give some thought on how to stimulate the exchange of senior researchers between the institutes, for instance by using sabbaticals; is it possible to develop an EAPS Visiting Scholar Program with the help of the Affiliated Institutions? Promoting collaboration between institutes has always been a trademark of EAPS and should continue.

3. Other issues

In view of the time no other issues are raised

4. Closing

Jim Vaupel closes the meeting and thanks all participants.

Nico van Nimwegen,
August 2014