



European Association for the Study
of Science and Technology

Minutes General Meeting 17/07/2024, Amsterdam 13:30-15:00 CEST

1. Attendance

All Council Members were present.

45 participants attended the meeting, and the list of names is attached.

2. Minutes of the general meeting in Madrid

Approved

3. Report on the activities of the EASST Council 2023-2024

The President of EASST, Maja Horst (MH), started her report by offering huge thanks to the local organising team and NomadIT for their commitment and dedication to organise the event. She then introduced the agenda of the meeting by asking if there were any integrative points, but no additions were requested by the audience.

Council composition

MH proceeded by introducing the current composition of the EASST Council (also available [here](#)).

Report on the activities of the EASST Council

MH continued by presenting the activities of the EASST Council from the last EASST conference in Madrid till the date of the EASST-45 conference in Amsterdam (2022-2024).

Code of Ethics and the EASST Ethics Committee

MH briefly introduced the guiding principle of the EASST Ethics Policy and focused on principles 3-7-9 among the others included in the Code available on the EASST [webpage](#). The EASST Ethics Committee has been operative since January 2024.

Then, MH gives the words to other council members to present the following points on the agenda, starting with the EASST journals.

EASST Review (<https://easst.net/easst-review/>)

Richard Tutton (RT) started by thanking the previous team led by Niki Vermeluen. The new editorial team – led by RT – includes Jose Canada, Roos Hopman, Stefan Laser along with a copywriting team – Adam Dinsmore and Paria Rezay. RT announced that the July issue is out. As well as commissioning contributions, the EASST Review team plans to continue open calls for content as well from the community. The next issue will be themed around the current conference. In terms of possible discussions and development, RT listed the following:

- Existing EASST Review sections: clarifying the scope of each of the existing sections to readers and contributors.
- Diverse campaigns: For future issues, rather than posting about the issue itself, we will produce posts on individual articles; and move to open platforms.

- The look and feel of articles: we have made some changes to how articles appear. More improvements will follow.
- Canvass: more ideas from the membership and learn from others about what we can do with EASST Review.
- Issues: We agreed to produce two issues for 2024: the first in June and the second in November (which would be a conference-themed issue).
- Other EASST publications: The EASST Review team met with the S&T journal team to discuss opportunities for closer collaboration and also a new design.

RT handed over to MH and then to Antti Silvast to present a report about the Science & Technology Studies journal.

Science & Technology Studies journal (https://easst.net/sts_journal/)

Antti Silvast – co-opted member of the EASST Council – introduced himself as the Coordinating Editor of the journal. He provided a short description of the journal, which is the official journal of EASST and is published in collaboration with the Finnish Society for Science and Technology Studies. The journal publishes 4 issues a year since 1988. It is a fully open-access journal (Diamond Open Access) with no processing charges for the authors. It is indexed in Scopus, Web of Science (Social Sciences Citation Index), and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The Journal Impact Factor is 1.9 according to Clarivate Analytics (Q1, top 25% journal in HPS list). AS pointed out that in 2023 the period to the first editorial decision on manuscripts was relatively short (24 days) and the days to accept (in 2023) were 192 on average. AS explains that the journal is successfully contributing to the steady growth of the field and benefits from the EASST financial support. Finally, AS presented the current editorial team (the complete list of members is available [here](#)).

AS handed over to MH and then to Michela Cozza for presenting the EAST Awards

EASST Awards

Michela Cozza (MC) briefly reminded the audience of the three EASST Awards – Olga Amsterdamska, Chris Freeman, John Ziman – their rationale (more [here](#)), and that the ceremony announcing the winners was scheduled on Thursday 18 July – 15:00-16:00 MC handed over to MH and then to Andrea Núñez Casal for presenting the EASST Fund.

EASST Fund

Andrea Núñez Casal (ANC) reminded the assembly the purpose of the EASST Fund ([here](#)) and announced that the EASST financial support for this specific activity will increase in 2025. She briefly presented the initiatives awarded in 2024 (available on the same [webpage](#) as above).

ANC handed over to MH and then to Sarah Rose Bieszczad to present the EASST conference support.

EASST conference support

Sarah Rose Bieszczad (SRB) informed that €15,010 were distributed as €190 fee waivers to 79 from 249 eligible applicants (about 31%). She pointed out that there were many applicants this year. She explained that many factors are considered when choosing who to award. (1) career stage, financial situation, geographical region, and participation role in the conference; (2) priority given to those from/based in poorer countries in Europe (eastern and southern Europe) and globally, as well as from countries not typical of EASST's membership. Finally she provided some figures: of those who provided their gender (not a compulsory question) there were 37 female, 1 genderqueer, 14 male, 2 non-binary, 4 women

SRB handed over to MH and then to Rohan Jackson (member of the NomadIT – EASST administrative support)

4. Membership

Regarding the composition, Rohan Jackson (RJ) said that EASST counts on 1594 members (60% full, 13% reduced, 27% student) which is the largest to-date. The previous peaks were 942 in 2018 and 846 in 2022. Regarding the locations, the members are from 50 nations. The top nations are Germany (322), Netherlands (262), United Kingdom (254), France (97), Austria (79), Denmark (62), Italy (57), Switzerland (46), Belgium (43), Norway (41), Sweden (40).

RJ continued by introducing the subscription month-change. He reminded the audience that the EASST membership subscription operates from May 1st for 12 months. Most organisations run membership from January 1st for 12 months. Furthermore, the EASST financial year is from January 1st to 31st December. The biennial EASST conference cycle usually begins in September (of an odd year) with registration opening in April (of an even year). This configuration causes problems for registration at member rates, if registration opens before May 1st (as it did in 2024). Hence, the EASST Council proposed to shorten 2025 subscriptions (and fee proportionally), so 2026 subscriptions (and after) will run January to December. The audience had no objections.

RJ handed over to MH and then to Sarah de Rijcke who is the treasurer of EASST

5. Financial report

Sarah de Rijcke (SR) acknowledged the good financial balance of EASST and provided the following figures for 2022 and 2023:

EASST Accounts 2022	
Assets at 1 January 2022	273869.64
Income from membership fees	28663.86
Interest	-713.74
Income total	27950.12
Expenditure	
EASST Council (Meeting expenses)	373.90
NomadIT administration	16797.02
Bank charges & currency transfer	313.84
EASST Fund (workshops and activities)	1500.00
EASST Review	1027.50
S&TS Journal	5000.00
Conference expenses	803.72
Total expenditure 31 December 2022	25815.98
Income-expenditure	2134.14
Assets at 31 December 2022	276003.78

EASST Accounts 2023	
Assets at 1 January 2023	276003.78
Income from membership fees	16348.03
Conference surplus	6861.00
Income total	23209.03
Expenditure	
EASST Council (Meeting expenses)	4003.76
NomadIT administration	12531.51
Bank charges & currency transfer	402.34
EASST Fund (workshops and activities)	8234.10
Awards	2000.00
EASST Review	1295.00
S&TS Journal	5000.00
Total expenditure 31 December 2022	33466.71
Income-expenditure	-10257.68
Assets at 31 December 2023	265746.10
Transfer to savings accounts	200000.00
Final assets in current account 31 December 2023	65746.10

A question was asked about how EASST will use the surplus generated by the conference. MH responded that more would be said later during the general meeting (see point 10 below) but anticipated that there was no intention to spend it entirely.

One more question is raised about the EASST Council's liability in case anything happens, having such a substantial budget. MH said this is a reason for having a substantial saving, such that council members will not suddenly find themselves liable for a deficit. Then she handed over to Teun Zuiderent-Jerak, who is the co-chair (together with Michiel van Oudheusden) of the EASST-4S conference 2024 and co-opted member of the EASST Council.

6. Conference update

Teun Zuiderent-Jerak (TZJ) acknowledged the substantial work done together with the other members of the program committee for organising the event that counted 3300+ registered participants. In this regard, he provided the following key figures:

	Total	Percentages
Europe	2365	73
North America	567	17
Asia	168	5
Latin America	69	2
Oceania	68	2
Africa	11	0

He highlighted that despite this being the joint event, Europeans are still prevalent. He also acknowledged that the size of the conference is demanding in terms of infrastructure and raises a question regarding the future of conferencing. He continued by presenting the conference budget as described in the following figure:

Registration income:	€ 1.120.000	Catering:	€ 320.700
Publishers income:	€ 8.000	Venue:	€ 112.000
		Admin & board/lodging:	€ 206.600
		Comms (Film, prints, etc):	€ 21.000
		Junior support organizing committee:	€ 15.000
		Design:	€ 22.000
		Keynotes:	€ 7.000
		Festival:	€ 193.000
		Fee waivers:	€ 46.000
		Card fees:	€ 24.800
Total:	€ 1.128.000	Total:	€ 968.100
	Projected surplus:	€ 159.900	

7. Collaboration with 4S

MH acknowledged the long friendship with 4S to co-organise the joint event every four years. This collaboration has been hugely beneficial in terms of shared knowledge and networking. However, MH stressed that a global F2F conference, especially of this size, might not be in line with EASST climate ambitions and perhaps not manageable for any university. Then MH invited the audience to join the afternoon discussion on the Future of Conferencing.

She continued by reminding the public of the agreement with 4S to split the surplus evenly but added that 4S needed to make about \$150,000 in extra income every year and that 4S accepted to make registration costs lower than they would have liked to. Hence, MH explained that EASST could make one-off additional support to 4S to help cover their annual costs. MH handed over to Brice Laurent.

8. EASST conference 2026

Brice Laurent started by reminding the audience of the afternoon meeting on the Future of Conferencing. Then, he said that the next call for hosting institutions for EASST 2026 will open in September 2024. This will not be a joint event. The format regarding online participation is open. MH pointed out that the EASST Council has extensively discussed the future format which must be agreed upon with the hosting institution.

9. Election of new council members in Autumn 2024

MH announced that, due to her new appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Aarhus University, she will not run for another term as President of EASST but, as specified in the EASST Constitution (point 8) she will remain in function until the new President-elect is installed as President. The new President is supposed to remain for the period 2026-2029 and to serve as President-elect in 2025. There will be 5 regular seats available for election (2025-2028). According to the last change made to the EASST Constitution, the Council will include two more members – i.e. 1 PhD candidate at time of election and 1 ERC with no more than seven years of experience since completion of PhD at the time of election. MH described the election process as follows:

- Nominations open 1 August 2024 – 1 October 2024
- Online elections: 14 October-8 November
- Results announced mid-November
- The New Council will be constituted in late November/early December

10. Potential future EASST initiatives

MH announced that the EASST Council was considering the following new initiatives:

- More Diamond OA outlets for STS research
- Increasing EASST Fund
- Supporting an annual ERC Summer School
- Increasing the conference Fee Waiver support

Along with these, other ideas are welcome and members of EASST should feel free to propose.

The general meeting ended on time without further questions or comments.

AGM Attendance

m

Name :

Alexandra dos-Pleinske
RICHARD TUTTON
Frauke Rohden
Francisco Vungava-Silva
Roos Hopman
Thylène Tanfern
Philippe SORMAN
Fred Steward
Alan Irwin
Sarah Schönbauer
Michael PENKLER
Torben Elgaard Jensen
Michiel van Oudheusden
Markus HOFFMANN
Jannis Steinke
MARVIN CEINOS DUMONT
Max BRAUN
Andrea Ninet Casal
Boris Laurent
Sarah Rose Biessead
Tenn Zinderent-Jerah
SARAH DE RYCKE

Les Levidow
Nina Wimborg-Katjes
Nikolaus Poehhacker
Stefan Zaser
ESTRID SØRENSEN
Jörg NIEWÄHNER
James Fleck
Harro van Lente
Sally Nytt
Quentin Dufour
Assunte Viteriti
PAOLO MAGALDA
Antti Silva
CHRISTINE HINE
Eleonora Daginei
Gouert Valkenburg
Miki Vermeulen
Lilyana V. Petrova
SYD REYNAL
Auli Viidalepp
Keren Weitzberg
Malborg James
STEFANO CRADO
FEDERICO NERESINI
Michela Costi

Kean Birch

GIANMARCO CAMPAGNOLO

Nina Kruglikova
Valeria Ramirez

Qiao Cong-rui

Nora Schulte-Römer

Julia Kurz

Jasmin Dierkes