

## The 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Company European Association of Science Editors

was held at The Legenes Hus Conference Centre, Oslo, Norway  
and online via the Zoom Platform on

Wednesday, 14 May 2025 at 2.00pm (UK time)

### Meeting Minutes

A full list of those attending online is included in the supporting documents.

Prof. Cem Uzun, President of EASE, welcomed everyone to the AGM on behalf of the Council.

1. [Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting](#)

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting was held online via the Zoom platform on 16 June 2024. The minutes had been previously circulated and there were no questions raised.

2. To receive the [President's Report](#)

Cem Uzun presented his President's Report. He started by presenting an overview of operations and highlighting recent changes in the Bye-Laws to facilitate better succession planning for the senior leadership and to change the role of Treasurer to an appointed one rather than elected.

EASE has 13 active Regional Chapters which undertake a variety of activities from webinars, training events, translations and visits. Cem thanked Octav Andronic for his services in leading the Regional Chapter Programme Committee and congratulated Iryna Izarova who has recently taken over this role from Octav.

EASE has three active Special Interest Groups:

The Environment and Sustainability Committee, led by Grabarić Andonovski and Haseeb Irfanullah, has published an article in *European Science Editing*, held several webinars and developed a new SDG<sup>1</sup> Checklist in conjunction with the EDI Committee.

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee is led by Ana Heredia, they have also published an article of their survey results in *European Science Editing*, held several webinars and collated some case studies of best practice.

The Peer Review Committee is led by Mario Malički. This Committee continues to work on developments to the ToolKit, with several new guidelines produced and published in the last year. EASE's secretarial team continues to support the Peer Review Week initiative.

EASE continues to promote the SAGER Guidelines alongside GENDRO and Cem thanked Joan Marsh and Shirin Heidari for their commitment to this project over many years. Joan Marsh also leads a fledgling EASE Psychiatry Group.

In November 2024 EASE held an online conference: AI and Digital Tools in Scholarly Publishing. A total of 457 delegates attended, which included those supported with sponsorship from LMICs<sup>2</sup>. Cem thanked the organisers and speakers.

EASE has delivered numerous webinars and several major workshops and training events, including the EASE School for Manuscript Editors and Academic Authors and the EASE School for Journal Editors. Cem thanked all contributors and speakers, and particularly to Pippa Smart for allowing EASE to use her materials.

The Resource Library continues to grow, with 435 searchable items now available free to members. In the Autumn we launched a new product, the Peer Review Card Exchange Game, which is available in the webshop.

Cem congratulated the Editorial Team and International Editorial Advisory Board for the success of the Journal, *European Science Editing*. He also thanked AVES and ARPHA for their continued sponsorship.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

<sup>2</sup> Low and Middle Income Countries

In 2024 EASE launched a new non-member newsletter, the EASE Update. This is distributed to the contacts list (circa. 111,000 people) to raise awareness of EASE activities and encourage participation. The e-newsletter is distributed to members monthly with news, events and resources. Yateen Joshi will take over from Madeleine McMullen as the reading list editor.

EASE has several projects in progress, the Learning Hub, an application to the EU COST Action Programme, and a proposal to create an education and certification program for scientific journal editors.

In February we held our Awards Event for 2024. The winner of the Best Initiative was jointly awarded to 'Writing your research paper: tips from EASE editors' and 'the Peer Review Toolkit'. The Community Contributor was awarded to Mario Malički for services to the Peer Review Committee and the Rising Star award was given to Mirko Spiroski for his work in establishing the Macedonian Regional Chapter.

The Pau Award was given to Duncan Nicholas for his services to EASE over a number of years.

Cem congratulated the winners of the awards for the Journal:

- Gina Joubert was awarded best original article as voted by the Editorial Advisory Board
- Silvije Šegulja, Gordana Starčević Klasan, Anja Šegulja Perić, Mirela Vučković, Iva Sorta-Bilajac Turina were awarded the best original research paper or review paper as voted by EASE members
- Philippe C. Baveye was awarded best viewpoint or correspondence as voted by ESE Editorial Advisory Board
- Amy Slogrove was awarded the best ESE Peer Reviewer by the European Science Editing Editorial Board.

EASE is well represented on a number of social media platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, BlueSky, Mastadon and YouTube. EASE has moved its allegiance from X (previously Twitter) to BlueSky and established a new Instagram account this year. Cem called for volunteers to support the social media team.

The EASE Forest continues to grow: over 2,000 trees have been planted since the scheme was initiated.

Cem finished his report with a number of thanks:

The Norwegian Medical Association, and in particularly Are Brean, for hosting the 18<sup>th</sup> EASE Conference,

All the speakers, contributors, sponsors and delegates attending the Conference,

To the 2023-25 EASE Council, especially to those stepping down at the end of their term,

The EASE secretarial team, Mary Hodgson and Lucy Hampshire.

### 3. To receive the [Secretary's Report](#)

Mary delivered her report on membership and activities during 2024. View the [slide deck](#).

Mary started with a review of membership numbers over time and commented that numbers have plateaued around the mid-600s, with 633 members as of May 2025. She presented various graphs showing data about how the overall membership splits into the 9 different membership types, how they split down geographically across 51 countries and how that is influenced by the Regional Chapters, and how EASE is performing on its EDI policy showing members split by age and gender.

Mary then presented details about the events and activities organised by the secretarial team in 2024. Over 30 webinars were organised from the spring and autumn webinar series, and a number of webinars on behalf of the Chapters and Special Interest Groups. EASE also ran several fee bearing courses, and three major events, the Autumn Symposium, the Awards Event and the Strategy Day for Council.

She explained that 372 members had attended at least one event, with 92 members engaged in more than 5 activities.

This permission-based contacts database now has over 11,000 people in it. EASE regularly sends information to this group about events, surveys, new publications. We also send the new EASE Update newsletter to them.

Mary highlighted several new initiatives which were planned:

- Develop a new institutional membership category for journals, universities and publishers, organised with a specified number of places for staff/volunteers for a given price, rather than named individuals
- Consider providing free access to the Author section of the Learning Hub
- Create a regular targeted news update from SI/Role/RC Committee leaders

Mary ended her report by explaining that as activity levels have grown dramatically in the last 5 years, it is important that EASE consolidates, reviews its and identifies the most and least successful. The systems and procedures should be reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose and efficient, and EASE must strengthen its leadership to take on more responsibility.

Lucy Hampshire would be leaving EASE at the end of May, and Mary thanked her for her support and enthusiasm over the two years she has worked alongside her.

See Mary's [slide deck](#) for full details.

4. To receive the [Treasurer's statement](#) of income and expenditure for the year ending 31 December 2024

Treasurer, Matt Hodgkinson presented a summary of the 2024 accounts. Please see the [full accounts](#).

Matt explained that he would stand down as Treasurer at the end of this meeting. A lengthy search for a replacement was unsuccessful, so the Council agreed to a Bye-law amendment that would allow the role to be appointed rather than elected. It was thereby agreed that Mary Hodgson would be appointed as Company Secretary and Treasurer of EASE for the 2025-27 rotation.

The Finance Committee will be strengthened to support the newly appointed Company Secretary and Treasurer, who will no longer be a director. To ensure sufficient directors, it has been agreed that a senior EASE member based in the UK should serve on the Finance Committee if the other directors are not UK based. Duncan Nicholas has agreed to take on this role for the 2025-27 rotation. In addition to this, both Vice President would sit on the Finance Committee.

Matt highlighted some of the major achievements undertaken in 2024 which directly affected the Association's finances.

The [2024 accounts](#) are available on the website, so just Matt highlighted the key items:

Income	£56,100
Expenditure	£61,568
Net loss	(£5,468)

Reserves                      £65,241

Please view Matt's [slide deck](#).

5. To report the appointment of an independent financial reviewer for the 2025 accounts

Matt reported that the Council had appointed Crowthers Chartered Accounts from Ledbury, UK as financial reviewers for 2025.

Matt also mentioned that EASE was now being regularly audited and assessed by the various financial institutions that provide financial services to EASE. This is time consuming and has caused significant extra work for the secretarial team.

6. To receive the Report of the Editor-in-Chief of *European Science Editing*

Editor-in-Chief, Ksenija Baždarić, presented her Editorial Board Report for the Journal, *European Science Editing*.

Ksenija presented information on submissions and acceptances and article views. In 2024, 22 articles were published: 7 original articles, 2 reviews, 5 viewpoints and 8 correspondence pieces.

Submissions rose from 40 in 2023 to 57 in 2024.

Article views rose in 2024 from 62,598 unique views in 2023 to 69,652 in 2024.

The Journal is indexed in Scopus and in the Simago Journal rank, European Science Editing is in the second quartile for the social sciences communication field and in the third quartile for the health informatics field. The number of citations also rose.

Ksenija presented some information about the geographic diversity of our authors. In 2024 authors were drawn from countries across the world with Iraq topping the list with 19 authors, with Indonesia (8), UK (8) and Croatia (7) also being well represented.

Ksenija thanked her editorial team for their support over the last year. In 2025 there have been some changes in the Editorial Board. Ashley Cooper has stood down as an Associate Editor as she has taken on a new role in EASE Council. Dado Čakalo has also stepped down. Ksenija thanked them both for their support and

contributions. She also welcomed a new editor, Yasin Hasan Balcioglu who will join the team shortly.

She thanked the sponsors of the Journal, Pensoft for providing the ARPHA platform, AVES for providing copy-editing and production services, and Science Open who are new sponsors for 2025.

Ksenija concluded her report by saying that the journal is now a COPE member and is indexed in Web of Science in the emerging source citation index. This has been a major achievement and the team were congratulated.

## 7. To announce the new Council for 2025-27

Cem Uzun recognised the members of the 2023-25 Council who were standing down: Elisa de Raneri, Haseeb Irfanullah, Yateen Joshi and Jadranka Stojanovski.

He thanked them for their service to EASE and expressed his hope that they would continue to be closely involved in EASE activities.

Cem then introduced Bahar Mehmani and announced that she would be the new President for the 2025-27 rotation.

Bahar then introduced her new Council:

- Vice Presidents – Are Brean, Norway, Iva Grabarić Andonovski, Croatia
- Ashley Cooper, UK
- Phill Jones, UK
- Jason Roberts, Canada
- Sigmar Rode, Brazil
- Ali Şahin, Turkey
- Jo Wixon, UK

Ksenija Baždarić would continue as Editor-in-Chief of *European Science Editing* and Duncan Nicholas would remain on Council as a director of the EASE Company. Both these positions are ex-officio.

The meeting was closed at 3.00pm (UK time).

## Supporting documents

[Agenda](#)

[Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting](#)

[President's Report](#)

[Secretary's Report](#)

[Treasurer's Report](#) and [2024 Accounts](#)

[European Science Editing Report 2024](#)

[Attendance Register AGM 2025](#)

Mary Hodgson – Secretary

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