

EASE annual report, 2019

This report was presented at the AGM, October 2019

EASE continues to represent editors across the world, and to continue its activities in support of the EASE mission, to improve the global standard and quality of science editing by promoting the value of science editors and supporting professional development, research, and collaboration.

EASE organization

Membership

New membership types were agreed during the summer of 2018 with improved discounts for large groups. We are delighted that this has made considerable change to our membership numbers, and as of 30 August 2019 we have 458 members (compared to 400 members reported at last year's AGM). In addition to regular members we now have 15 Group memberships. Many of them are small groups, but we were delighted to welcome members from the Russian Association of Science Editors and Publishers (RASEP) and from the Vietnamese regional chapter. RASEP invited Pippa Smart to represent EASE at their annual conference in April 2019.



EASE Council

A new President and Council were inaugurated during the Bucharest Conference in June 2018 and have met three times since then.

EASE communication

EASE Communication is overseen by Duncan Nicholas (Vice President), and we undertook a review of our channels throughout 2018 and early into 2019 via the member survey. The EASE website was re-designed in the summer of 2018, with a reorganization of its content. This has greatly improved navigation to the website content. The EASE Blog site was similarly re-designed and updated in the summer of 2018 and has since proved to be a more popular with regular updates.

The newsletter continues to be well received with over 40% of recipients opening the email on receipt (according to Mailchimp figures).

Website traffic is fairly stable with the most popular being our Toolkits and guidance documents. The Toolkit for Authors page is by far the most popular page on the site, followed by the Translation Guidelines page. Then is the Science Editors Handbook and then the Regional Chapter homepage.

The EASE site receives visitors from all over the world. In 2019 so far, 27 countries have 100 or more unique visitors to the site. 3 countries have over 1000 unique visitors; USA, China and UK.

Our Twitter account has become more active and gaining more engagement in the past few months. It currently has just over 1500 followers.

The Facebook page has been growing steadily in 2019, and now has 537 Likes and 588 Follows. The Facebook Group now has a total of 532 members, growing at a similar rate to the Page

Finances

EASE continues to be financially stable. The new bank account opened in 2018 will be fully in place by later in 2019.

EASE activities

EASE Events

The Bucharest 2018 conference in June welcomed over 136 participants from 23 countries. The theme of the conference was 'Balancing Innovation and Tradition in Science Editing' and included speakers from around the world. In addition to the plenary and parallel sessions we also ran 5 workshops which were well attended. An article describing the conference was published in Science Editing by Sun Huh.



<https://www.escienceediting.org/upload/se-5-2-155.pdf>

We are delighted to be working with the EC Research Executive Agency to run the discussion forum on GDPR and privacy in journal publishing: good practice for submission and peer review processes which will run on 11th October 2019, after the AGM.

Planning is underway for the 2020 conference which is on the theme of Promoting sustainability and diversity in research: the role of editors. The conference will take place in Valencia, Spain, 11-14 June 2020. A Programme Committee led by Ines Steffens (Vice President) is being supported by an Organization Committee led by Mary Hodgson.

EASE resources and publications

The Guidelines for Authors and Translators of Scientific Articles to be Published in English continue to be our most popular resource, and it is maintained and updated annually by Sylwia Ufnalska. EASE remains extremely grateful to her for her dedication to this highly valuable resource. It was identified by the STM (publishers') Association as a valuable resource and they have promoted it to their members. It is now available in 28 languages

European Science Editing

The journal continues to be well received and has been published regularly during the last year. The editor, Ksenija Bazdaric and the Editorial Board continue to maintain quality and publish interesting content. Articles have been picked up by news sources demonstrating that the journal's reach is beyond our membership.

Regional Chapters

We currently have eight regional chapters.

1. Bulgarian Regional Chapter
2. Croatian Regional Chapter
3. Italian Regional Chapter
4. Mexican Regional Chapter
5. Peruvian Regional Chapter
6. Russian Regional Chapter
7. Turkish Regional Chapter
8. Vietnamese Regional Chapter

Not all regional chapters are very active and we have appointed Jadranka Stojanovski from EASE Council to work with them.

The Turkish chapter has been particularly active with many educational activities taking place. EASE participated in the 3rd International Symposium of Scientific Journals which took place at Trakya University in December 2018.

The Vietnamese Regional Chapter is taking a lead in promoting science editing within the country and has plans for translating the Science Editors' Handbook.

Gender Policy Committee

This group continues to be active and the SAGER Guidelines are now translated into Spanish and Korean. The Korean translation has been widely disseminated to members throughout South Korea. There is a Chinese translation underway. The guidelines and issues over diversity have been promoted at several events with members of the GPC being asked to provide talks and input. For example Shirin Heidari spoke at the Diversity in Peer Review webinar in November 2018 which was attended by about 150 people.

Endorsements

ORCID

EASE has issued a statement of support and endorsement of ORCID, the unique author identification system. We encourage our members to help promote its uptake throughout the researcher community.

Leiden Declaration

In February, EASE became a signatory to the Declaration on transparent editorial policies for academic journals that was issued at the end of 2018 by the Institute for Science in Society in the Netherlands. This Declaration was discussed at a workshop held in Leiden, July 2018. Representatives from publishers, (managing) editors, researchers and librarians participated, including two members of EASE Council. One of the main conclusions of the workshop was the acknowledged need for journals to be more transparent about their editorial policies. EASE felt that one item was missing from the declaration and has added encouragement for all journal editor members to ensure that they have a stated policy for dealing with appeals from authors, and that they make these policies transparent on their website.

C4DISC

In November 2018, EASE became a signatory to the Coalition for Diversity & Inclusion in Scholarly Communications. The principles of the Coalition share many of the goals of our Gender Policy Committee, and we look forward to contributing to the group's mission, and collaborating with other signatory organisations in the future.

Environmental sustainability

EASE is formulating an environmental statement to advocate for better environmental and sustainable practices in both publishing and editing and promoting sustainable science – the theme of the 2020 conference.

EASE representation

EASE is represented on several initiatives, such as Peer Review Week.

Sister organizations

EASE has an agreement to provide discounted membership for members of sister organizations, but this is generally not reciprocated. We are actively seeking to find ways to work more closely with such organizations to support editing and editors through different routes.

Pippa Smart
President, EASE
8 October 2019