

Accountability Report National President 2019/2020

In accordance with the task description of the position of National President of ESN Germany, I was obliged to carry out the following tasks during my mandate:

- Representation of ESN Germany, within the network as well as external
- Coordination and supervision of the work of the National Board
- Preparation and chairing of the weekly National Board Calls
- Strong cooperation with Education Officer concerning stakeholders and higher education policy
- Preparation of the agenda for the NPs and LPs together with the NB and the CT
- Main contact person for the Alumni and the Audit Board
- Taking care of the G-Unit
- Managing Google accounts together with Webmaster
- Administration of the National Intranet.

I am pleased to say that I fulfilled all tasks in their full scope. In the following, I will provide details about my actions regarding every task, before moving on to the action plan.

I represented ESN Germany at two major external events: a one-day event by *Médaille Charlemagne pour les médias européens* which consisted of several interesting panels and discussions about Europe in various aspects, among which was higher education, and a networking event by *Einstieg*, the company that frequently invites ESN to their major fairs for students seeking higher education opportunities. Furthermore, I have been in touch with the DAAD at some instances, however, our Education Officer Julia Bauer was responsible for the major part of our communication with our National Agency. Finally, I briefly corresponded with the permanent representation of Germany in Brussels during the European Elections regarding the “This time I’m voting” campaign. Internally, I represented the National Board towards the Audit Board and the ESN Deutschland Alumni e.V. throughout the mandate.

It is difficult to describe the coordination of the work of the National Board in a detailed manner, however, I assured that this task was accomplished. I prepared and chaired the weekly NB calls, assured that no deadlines were missed, and encouraged the NB to create personal Action Plans mid-mandate on which I followed up if I saw issues with specific tasks. I have the feeling that

the National Board could always rely on me to have an overview on workload and deadlines at all times, and hope that my fellow NB members agree.

With Julia Bauer as my Education Officer, I was very lucky to have someone I could cooperate with closely and easily. As mentioned above, she was in charge of the communication with our National Agency, and kept me up to date with important news. We both followed updates regarding higher education and policy in Europe, and actively participated in discussions about said topics within the Education Community of ESN. Especially the COVID-19 pandemic which started at the end of our mandate called for quick action, which we took by trying our best to use the little reliable information available for the benefit of ESN Germany and its sections.

When it comes to the preparation of NPs/NAs and LPs, my fellow NB members can probably confirm that I was meticulous, to say the least. Especially for NPs/NAs, I devoted a great part of my time into the preparation as early as a month before the event. I did my utmost to include agenda input of the different bodies of ESN Germany to the highest possible extent, and to respect the requests of our participants as much as possible. I made sure that every CT was accommodated and supported, and adequately prepared for the event. Also in regard to statutory changes, I initiated necessary preparation and communication with the Audit Board at an early stage. During my mandate, all important deadlines regarding Platforms/Assemblies were met, and during the events, we managed to avoid major delays and even allowed for a certain degree of flexibility.

As mentioned above, I was the main contact person towards the Alumni and the Audit Board. I kept in touch with the Alumni throughout the mandate fairly regularly, and attended their summer meeting. Finally, I dare say that the cooperation with the Audit Board thrived during our mandate - I tried to keep our relationship as positive and beneficial as possible, and we engaged in frequent mutual exchange.

The G-Unit surely is a problem child of ESN Germany. After three years, not much has happened with this committee, including during my mandate. This is due to the fact that the President simply has a workload too high to be able to supervise another committee. However, I fortunately realized this and managed to agree with the National Treasurer to pass on the responsibility of the committee to him - the importance of grants for the future of ESN Germany cannot be denied, I feel very relieved that the committee now is in good hands.



Regarding the management of Google accounts, no major task came up during the mandate, and if there was a small task, the Webmaster Michel Böhm took care of it reliably.

Finally, together with the National PR Manager Laura Hoffmann, I tended to the Material Exchange in the national Intranet and kept it up to date and sustainable as well as working with the Webmaster on the timely publishment of each Candidate Blog.

Moving on to the Action Plan, these were the Key Actions:

- using the National Committees as a support system as well as a source of information and inspiration for the sections. The first step of this goal was an extensive promotional campaign for the committees.
- improving and optimizing the intranet and connecting it with the Material Exchange
- gaining more visibility of ESN and our volunteer work towards IROs and stakeholders
- Improving the content of National Platforms/Assemblies to the benefit of the participants
- Updating the 3 year strategy
- Using the ERS
- Acquiring financial stability.

Several of these actions did not concern me in my position, specifically, and will be addressed in the accountability reports of the other NB members. I will report all progress I have been actively involved in, as well as what I am aware of from my fellow NB members' work.

The recruitment campaign for the national committees worked every well, and all committees grew. As far as I know, every NB member could benefit from their committee to a certain degree, with the exception of myself. However, I have already addressed the issue with my former committee above, which I could successfully transfer to the Treasurer.

ESN has been involved more and more with VDSI, and from what I know from the Education Officer, this has been largely to our benefit. This cooperation surely benefits our visibility. Additionally, the dissemination of the several surveys during this mandate has put us in active contact with our National Agency and has drawn the IROs' attention towards ESN: Unfortunately, we did not manage to take any larger steps into the direction of gaining more

recognition for the volunteers of ESN Germany, however, I believe that this is included in the Action Plan of the new National Board.

I have already addressed the topic of National Platforms/Assemblies above, but want to stress again that I have done my utmost to respect as many of the participants' requests as possible. Additionally, our Vice President Bianca Keiper has sent a feedback form to the participants after every NP/NA to ensure that we improve our assemblies each time. Finally, we have tried to actively engage with the participants during the NPs/NAs and to allow as much flexibility to adapt to the participants' needs as possible.

Regarding the 3 year strategy, I have prepared and presented a thorough evaluation at NA Munich. This evaluation tracked progress for every category, identified possible reasons for areas where progress was not satisfactory, and gathered suggestions for the following 3 year strategy.

The ERS unfortunately could not be used for our event registration during this mandate. The reasons are best explained by our Webmaster. However, I can assure that Michel Böhm put a lot of work in trying to establish ERS as our go-to system for event registration.

Regarding financial stability, I do not dare to give any in-depth information as this requires the expertise of a treasurer, however, my impression is that our financial situation has improved in comparison to last mandate, and our Treasurer Luís Henriques could find various means to optimise our budget.

Finally, I want to share a chronological overview of every event of my mandate and important key actions that have not been mentioned at another point. I am mentioning foreign NPs, since I used them as an opportunity to share best practices of ESN Germany.

At the beginning of mandate, the ESN survey was already in the middle of its dissemination. I got engaged with this survey quite heavily and promoted it to the sections and to the rest of the NB, who on their behalf promoted it externally. This way, ESN Germany managed to record the second-largest number of answers to this survey.

The first event of my mandate was AGM Thessaloniki, where I aided the NR with the supervision of the delegation together with the other NB members present. One month later,



the LP West in Siegen followed, which I chaired along with the Webmaster Michel Böhm. In June, I attended my first physical meeting of the Education Community in Warsaw, which was very valuable training and gave many opportunities for best practice sharing. The first quarter of the mandate finished with me visiting the Swiss NP in Zurich.

On the very first weekend of the second quarter of my mandate, NP Dresden took place, followed by the summer meeting of our German Alumni Association four weeks later. Due to the summer break, this quarter of the mandate was otherwise calm.

As the second half of our mandate started in October, the very first weekend brought the Erasmus Upgrade Training and Conference, which the Education Officer and I attended. On the last Weekend of October, NP Karlsruhe followed. In November, the long awaited National Event Spree Break took place, where I had the opportunity to deliver a speech on the 30th anniversary of the fall of the wall. Two weeks later, I attended the Europe Summit by the Médaille Charlemagne association which I have mentioned above. At the end of November, I had the opportunity to attend CND Lisbon together with the NR and the Vice NR. A week later the LP West in Düsseldorf followed, which I attended for the second half of the event. This very lively third quarter of the mandate finished with the final NA in Munich. For this NA, I have prepared an in depth-evaluation on our current 3 years strategy and our progress, which as far as I am aware the current National Board has already used.

In the last quarter of the mandate, I attended the Austrian NP in Vienna, and one week later the CNR in Istanbul, together with the NR and the Partnership Manager. As the last event before the end of my mandate, I was main chair at the Swedish elective NP in Karlstad. During the final weeks of the mandate, two surveys were launched which I heavily promoted: The Social Inclusion in Education and Mobility survey, as well as the survey on how the COVID-19 pandemic impacts the mobility experience of Erasmus students.

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