

# Accountability Report

*Bianca Keiper - Vice-President 2019/20*

Dear ESNers,

with this report I would like to give an account of my tasks and duties as Vice-President in the mandate of 2019/20. I will do this by first assessing my main goals as presented during NP Halle and then continuing with general Vice-President duties as well as unexpected tasks, which came up during the mandate.

## **Main goals of the mandate as presented during NP Halle in January 2019/20**

- Growing Network → Quality assurance

Creation of a Checklist for Candidate Sections to facilitate the decision process of whether an Interested Organization suits the vision, mission, values and requirements to become a full member section; increase transparency of the decision process; give the sections the possibility to vote based on comprehensible facts instead of VP recommendation and some short impressions during NAs/LPs

- not achieved: during the mandate it became clear that the basis of the checklist for Candidate Sections will and should be the section's requirements by ESN international, which need to be brought to our sections and be established in our German network first. Jana and I tried to introduce the topic to the network by holding a small session about it. Unfortunately, the outcome of the session led to a hold situation and we were not able to get back to the topic during our mandate.

- Mental Health

Creation of a safe space during events; workshops on related topics (self-motivation, time management, etc.); mental load during events (packed agendas, not enough and insufficient breaks)

- not achieved: the topic of mental health should have been brought to the network mainly through workshops during the Training Days 2019 or 2020, which had both to be cancelled. Concerning the mental load especially during NAs/NPs, I must say that we even did backsteps, as the

agendas especially during NP Karlsruhe and NA Munich were packed beyond every limit.

- Section Questionnaire Review

Section Questionnaire by ESN Germany, ESN Questionnaire by ESN international and Section Calls were very problematic in 2018, which led to the conclusion that there must be an underlying problem, that could and should be found and improved.

- achieved: the German Section Questionnaire was reviewed by adapting the questions to the current situation of the network. Further, sections were filling out the Questionnaire before the section calls, which gave me the opportunity to read through all the answers and only tackle areas that were especially good/bad working in the section. This means that sections had not to answer every single question during the calls, which was very time consuming, but that they had time to really speak about issues and best practices. After the section calls were conducted, I also send out an email to every section indicating which section they could ask to get best practice sharing for difficult areas. The Section Care Team (SCT) was involved in the conduction of the calls, which was a great relief for me and should be continued this way in upcoming mandates.

### **Additional “every day” VP tasks and unexpected challenges of the mandate**

- LPs and NPs/NAs: find OCs, support OCs in the organization of the event; event evaluation (sending and evaluate feedback forms, discussing the outcome with the NB), content preparation (presentations and small session)
- Training Days: find OC, organize the event together with them, theoretically: event evaluation
- Spree Break: organize the event together with the team recruited by my predecessor, support the heads of OC, be present during the event, event evaluation (see NAs) and presentation of the results during NA Munich
- Coordination and overview over national and international events (until the election of our EM in October 2019)
- Leading the SCT
- Section calls (winter and summer term) and visits
- Support of Interested Organizations and Candidate Sections in the admission process

### **Setbacks, failures and problems:**

- especially in the winter term we were facing problems in finding OCs for the LPs in some regions; one LP could not take place due to lack of participants
- Finding an OC for the autumn NP also gave us struggles (but we were able to hold a short NP in the end; thank you ESN Karlsruhe for stepping up)
- Training Days cancellation for the edition of 2019/20
- Spree Break: problems with the accomodation and the party location of Saturday night
- Two Interested Organizations and one Candidate Sections were not able to/did not want to continue their admission process
- Planned section visit had to be cancelled due to the Corona pandemic

### **Achievements and things that can be crossed from the VP “To Do”-List of 2019/20**

- LPs/NAs: all above mentioned tasks could be fulfilled
  - I chaired three LPs which gave me better insights into the needs and realities of our sections
- Spree Break: all above mentioned tasks could be fulfilled
- Evaluation of ESN Germany’s event calendar in reference to the event calendar of ESN international.
- Sections calls: preparation, briefing of the SCT members, conduction and evaluation
- General section care at all times and visits
- Successful support of Interested Organizations and Candidate Sections in the admission process
  - Interested Organizations: LEI Konstanz, Gemini Pforzheim
  - Candidate Sections: ISN Regensburg, ISA Saarbrücken
  - Candidates that became full sections during the mandate: ESN Darmstadt, ESN Kiel
  - Organizations I had a call with came from Aachen, TU Berlin, SGH Berlin and Neubrandenburg
- Seperation of the Southern Region into South-West Region and South-East Region
- Better establishment and recognition of the Regional Coordinators (RC): calls with the RC to improve the work between the NB and RCs, rising the recognition of the position in the German network, implementation of a North Regional Coordinator (Southwest and West RC was already existing)

- Evaluation of the VP tasks - conclusion: the position was overcharged and needed a supporter; creation of task description of the EM; implementation of the position in the NB

### **Events attended during the mandate:**

- NPs/NAs: Halle (Saale), Dresden, Karlsruhe, München, Wien
- LPs (as chair): Augsburg, Darmstadt, Düsseldorf
- National Boards Meeting Lodz
- WEP Utrecht
- Spree Break Berlin

I would like to finish this report with a big thank you to some people and bodies of our great network: First of all, I would like to thank the National Board for the great time we had, the memories we made and the strength you have given me to manage anything that came up during the mandate. Especially Michel was a full time hero, as he always had to solve technical issues for me, find stuff for me or just listen to monologs of ideas and fears I had.

Next up is the SCT! Thank you Wajdi, Anna and Ann-Kathrin for being the best team I could have wished for and for all the support you have given me!

Further, I would like to thank the Regional Coordinators, all OCs of LPs, NPs/NAs, Spree Break and the Training Days. People like you, who put strength and power into bringing us closer together by living unforgettable moments are the bases of our network.

And last but not least: the sections, the Candidates and the Interested Organizations Thank you for making our network what it is! It was at all times my pleasure to work with you and for you. To see you grow and live the ESN spirit.

All the best,  
Bianca

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