

Motivational Letter for the candidacy as president of the national board of ESN Germany 2021/2022

Challenge accepted.

In the last months I learned a lot. I learned a lot about how ESN Germany works. I learned about the challenges we are facing and the people who are facing them. And I learned a lot about its members and their wishes when working with the three year strategy working group.

Corona has affected us all a lot. It has made a big part of what we are doing almost impossible. It was a hard hit for many volunteers. This year was not what the people in the national board signed up for when they were elected last January. The same is true for the local level. And Corona will continue affecting us even when it is (hopefully soon) gone. But at one point, we have to overcome it. And I really want to do that. I hope and I believe that we will find a team of motivated people that are willing to work on that and start their mandate in the national board even within a pandemic.

Because what we are having now is a generation of volunteers who do not know the network besides their local sections. I was lucky enough to visit NA Munich last year. For everybody who would have had their first platform or national event later that year, they did not have the chance to get to know that spirit. Therefore I believe we have to try to restart physical events as soon as the health risks and of course the financial risks allow it.

I would also like to include as many people as possible in the tasks that are ahead of us. As you might now, the professionalization of ESN Germany is way behind several other ESN countries and the financial situation is less than stable. There is a lot to do, if we find the people to actually do it. I would therefore like to offer several channels for everyone in the network to allow them to participate on the national level. Of course communities and working groups are important, but everyone that does find themselves exactly on the topics should also feel included, motivation is all that is needed.

Because maybe the biggest thing I learned in the last months is that ESN Germany is not something big and far away. It is not more (and not less) than all the sections and the people in it. And a few people trying to encourage cooperation and help the sections where they can. And I still heard in the various calls often people talking about "we" as a section and "they" in ESN Germany and, while I can understand that, because I was thinking like that not long ago, it really doesn't make sense. ESN Germany doesn't really have an interest other than providing the best possibilities for its members. It is all just people from some ESN section. And I would really like to carry that message across more.

People who know me longer might know that international cooperation is really my favorite topic. With the changes of the ESNReview this becomes a job for the president more and more. I think there are some things we can share, but mostly a lot we can learn from other national ESN organizations and I am looking forward a lot to this part.