

Minutes of the 2016 members' meeting of the European Association of Methodology (EAM).

Location: Hotel Melia Palas Atenea, Palma de Mallorca. Room: Atenea.

Date: July 28, 2016. Starting at 18:08.

The meeting was announced via email to all members on June 14, 2016

The agenda of the members' meeting consists of:

1. Accepting the agenda of the meeting.
2. Accepting the minutes of the 7th EAM members assembly in Utrecht, July 24, 2014.
3. Election of election chair and auditors.
4. President's report (Joop Hox).
5. Treasurer's report (Johannes Hartig).
6. Methodology editors' report (Peter Lugtig).
7. Methodology: should EAM aim for open access?
8. Discussion on membership fee AEMCOO & general members.
9. Proposal for and vote on honorary membership (Joop Hox).
10. Next conference (Rolf Steyer).
11. Report of the auditors (auditors).
12. Vote on release of responsibility.
13. Elections (election chair).
14. Remarks of the new president.

A total of 42 members attended the meeting
President Joop Hox welcomes all participants.

1. Accepting the agenda of the meeting.

This agenda was unanimously approved and no additions were proposed.

2. Accepting the minutes of the 7th EAM members assembly in Utrecht, July 24, 2014.

The minutes of the 2014 meeting were put online at www.eam-online.org a few weeks after that meeting. No comments were given by any member. Joop suggested the minutes are accepted and no objections were raised. Joop also suggested we use the same procedure for the 2016 minutes and no were no objections to this procedure.

3. Election of election chair and auditors.

Lisa Harlow was proposed as election chair for 2016. The proposed auditors for the financial report were Steffi Pole and Wayne Velicer. It should be noted here that one auditor should be from Germany and be able read banking relevant documents in German. The other auditor should preferably not come from Germany.

The election chair and both auditors were unanimously approved.

4. President's report (Joop Hox)

Joop Hox gave an overview of the activities over the past two years:

- Publications: journal and book series. The good news is the increased impact factor of Methodology. The EAM policy for the journal will be discussed later in further detail by Peter Lugtig. The books series is doing less well and the last publication was in 2014. There are currently no publications in the pipeline. As the editor of the book series was not present at the members' meeting, Joop asked on his behalf for requests for manuscripts for the book series. Those who are interested are invited to contact Eldad Davidov at Zürich University.

- Conferences: Utrecht was a success and Palma is also becoming a success. There is one criticism to the current congress and that is there are no workshops. Software demonstrations could have become a workshop. All members are asked to think about workshops for the next conference and to invite their colleagues to propose a workshop as well. One does not have to be a member of EAM to do a workshop at the next congress.
- Membership: There are currently 370 members. The aim is to increase number of members over the next two years.
- Financial situation: This will be discussed in point 5 by Johannes Hartig.

5. Treasurer's report (Johannes Hartig)

Johannes Hartig gives a presentation about the financial situation of EAM. The printed version of Methodology was dropped to save money. The main incomes are from membership fees and AEMCOO. The main costs are from Methodology and credit card services. In general the financial status of EAM is good.

The most important numbers from the treasurer's report are as follows:

Period	debit	credit	balance
21 July 2014 - 31 December 2014	10768.23	18595.85	7827.62
1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015	12144.10	23680.75	11536.65
1 January 2016 - 30 June 2016	12136.05	24326.51	12190.46
1 January 2016 - 31 December 2016 (expected)	12144.10	31516.65	19372.55

All numbers are in Euros.

For further details of the financial status, see the long structure of the treasurer's report attached to these minutes.

There are currently 381 EAM members of which 122 have not yet paid their membership fee for the year 2016.

There follows a discussion about the fact that we need to pay for the journal. In the past it was difficult to establish a new journal and have libraries pay for the journal. The request from the audience is to explore possibilities with other publishers, just as was done with MBR in the past. Income from journals does no longer come from libraries but from selling individual articles.

Historical investment summary: 12 years ago it was not clear Methodology would become a succes. EAM hired Hogrefe to do copyediting and advertising. Over the years the impact factor has increased. At this point it is difficult to make clear which part is due to Hogrefe and which is ours. For this reason the editors have not been so aggressive in their negotiations with Hogrefe.

The treasurer's report was unanimously approved conditional on the auditors' approval.

6. Methodology editors' report (Peter Lugtig).

Peter Lugtig gives a detailed report on Methodology. This journal always has two editors: one from Spain and the other from another country.

The impact factor increased over time and the current impact factor is almost 2. Methodology has been indexed since 2011 in:

- Social sciences, mathematical methods (8th place out of 49)
- Psychology (4th place out of 13)

The number of manuscripts handled by the Dutch editor Peter Lugtig between January 2014 and July 2016 was 115, of which 75 were rejected by the editor, 17 were accepted, 12 were rejected after review and 11 are currently in the review process. The total acceptance rate over both editors is 15%.

Data from the Spanish editors are not complete because of a change of editor. The current Spanish editor Jose-Luis Padilla has handled 45 manuscripts of which 8 were rejected by the editor, 2 were accepted and 35 are in the review process.

Most of the rejections were desk rejections by the editors because the submissions were subject matter manuscripts. Accepted papers must be from a methodological or statistical nature with applications in the social sciences

The plans for the future of Methodology are as follows:

Special issues:

2016 a special issue related to the 2016 EAM conference

2017 a special issue on measurement invariance

2018 a special issue on computational social science

Improve readership and accessibility

- open access format, depending on financial complications

- improve the review procedure by using content management system instead of submissions by email. Hogrefe does not have a system to use.

Furthermore the editors want to concentrate on new issues in methodology: big data, social networks, visualization and causality.

There were no questions from the audience.

7. Methodology: should EAM aim for open access?

There is some reluctance to leave Hogrefe because it is not clear who the owner of the journal title is. Furthermore Hogrefe has been kind to us, for instance by publishing an extra issue related to the 2014 congress and promising the same for the 2016 congress.

A journal without any costs for authors and readers is not sustainable because of hidden costs. As for now there is an option for partial open access at a fee of €2500 but only few authors choose to publish open access in Methodology. Due to various reasons authors do not see a need to publish open access but this may change in the future, for instance because research funders will require open access.

The pros of open access are: visibility of papers and an increase of the impact factor

The cons is the fee of €2500 is high. Given 16 papers per year Hogrefe could go for open access at €600 per paper.

There is a need to discuss the fee of open access publishing with Hogrefe. Given the current state a decision cannot be made right now. The executive committee would like the EAM

members to give them a mandate for negotiating with Hogrefe. There are no objections from any of the present members.

There is a concern by Wayne Velicer: open access may result in papers of lower quality. Publishers tend to only aim for money, not for quality and the review process of open access journals is often weak. It has to be made clear Methodology stays away from this.

8. Discussion on membership fee AEMCOO & general members.

Members of the Spanish organization AEMCOO pay a reduced fee of €50 instead of the regular €70 because it is a large group and therefore a group reduction is justifiable. Furthermore, EAMCOO does a lot of organizational work for EAM.

AEMCOO requests a further reduction of the membership fee to EAM to €35 starting 2017. It is possible to grant AEMCOO this extra rebate because Methodology is only published online and hence less expensive.

A next question is if a rebate in membership fee cannot be offered to all members of EAM. The proposal of the executive committee is to keep membership fee at €70 and to explore possibilities for reductions in the next two years while we are also negotiating with Hogrefe about the costs of open access publishing. There were no objections to this proposal from all present members.

9. Proposal for and vote on honorary membership (Joop Hox).

Sophia Rabe Hesketh was suggested as honorary member and she has accepted the invitation. Joop gave a short presentation of her career.

Sophia was unanimously approved as honorary member.

10. Next conference (Rolf Steyer).

Vasja Vehovar (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) is thinking about organizing the 2018 congress and will make the decision in August after he has consulted his department members. We wait until a decision has been made. If they cannot organize then a request will be sent out by email to all EAM members.

11. Report of the auditors (auditors).

All relevant documents related to the balances have been checked by Steffi Pole and Wayne Velicer and they could not find any inconsistencies. They report the documents were in perfect order. With this report the unanimous approval of the treasurers report becomes final.

12. Vote on release of responsibility.

All members agree that the members of the executive committee are released of their responsibilities. There were no abstains.

13. Elections (election chair, Lisa Harlow).

Four members from the current executive committee are stepping down: Julio Sánchez-Meca, Karin Schermelleh-Engel, Tamás Rudas and Rolf Steyer. Joop Hox thanked these members for their work over the past years.

A short presentation on the candidates for the new executive committee was given by Constantino Arce Fernández. The new candidacy is a combination of experienced members and new members:

President:	Constantino Arce Fernández
Vice president:	Axel Mayer
General secretary:	Mirjam Moerbeek
Deputy general secretary:	Julio Olea
Treasurer:	Johannis Hartig
Member:	Salvador Chacón
Member:	Ana Hernández
Member:	Heinz Holling
Member:	Joop Hox

After this presentation there was a presentation by Axel Mayer about the big five objectives for EAM: Congress, journal, advisory board, interaction and communication, social positive values.

After these presentations all 42 present members filled out their ballot papers. The results were as follows:

Candidates	Number of votes
Constantino Acre Fernández for president	42
Axel Mayer for vice president	40
Mirjam Moerbeek for general secretary	38
Julio Olea for deputy general secretary	42
Johannis Hartig for treasurer	40
Salvador Chacón for member	40
Ana Hernández for member	42
Heinz Holling for member	40
Joop Hox for member	38

Thus all candidates have been elected for the EAM executive committee.

14. Remarks of the new president.

Constantino Acre Fernández thanks all previous executive committee members for their work over the past two years and thanks all EAM members for their trust in the new executive committee.