

## Activities Report 2020

### General information

The European Society for Evolutionary Biology was founded in the year 1987. On January 27, 2010, the society placed its constitution on record in a notarial act. The society is registered at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce with registration number 09216606.

### Purpose

1. The object of the society is to promote the study of organic evolution.
2. The society seeks to achieve this object by, among other things:
  - a. Publishing the professional journals, The Journal of Evolutionary Biology (JEB) and Evolution Letters (EL);
  - b. Organizing congresses and scientific meetings;
  - c. Rendering financial and other support to research into organic evolution;
  - d. Supporting activities to foster a scientifically based understanding of organic evolution in teaching and research;
  - e. Doing anything related to the above, directly or indirectly, or incidental thereto, all in the broadest sense.

### Board

On December 31 2020, the steering committee of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology consisted of the following members, of whom the officers indicated with an asterisk form the executive board:

- Wolf Blanckenhorn\*
- Astrid Groot
- Lukas Kratochvil
- Sara Magalhães
- John Pannell\*
- Michael Ritchie\*
- Ophélie Ronce\*
- Koen Verhoeven\*
- Nina Wedell

### ESEB performed the following activities during 2020

In accordance with the foreseen activities in the Policy Plan 2019-2021 the following activities have been realised. See the accompanying Annual Report 2020 for the detailed accounting of these activities.

- Publication of the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* and *Evolution Letters*.
- Preparation for the European Congress of Evolutionary Biology in Prague, which has been postponed to 2022 due to the Corona pandemic. Consequently, and in light of the 2024 Joint Evolution Congress, the European Congress of Evolutionary Biology in Barcelona has been postponed from 2023 to 2025.

- Preparation for the Joint Evolution Congress in 2024 together with the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE).
- Call for bids for the organisation of the European Congress of Evolutionary Biology in 2027.
- Commitment to sponsor the annual meeting of European PhD students in Evolutionary Biology (EMPSEB) with € 15,000. The 2020 meeting had been cancelled due to the world-wide Corona pandemic and a virtual meeting is held in 2021.
- Commitment to sponsor the EvoKE network with € 10,000 annually.
- Managing the Society's Conference Travel Award Initiative (annual budget € 15,000). Due to the Corona pandemic (which postponed conferences or turned them into online events) no funds were requested in 2020.
- Managing the Society's Equal Opportunities Initiative (annual budget € 15,000). No new EO funds were granted in 2020 and no Congress Attendance Aid grants requested due to the Corona pandemic in which only virtual meetings took place.
- Managing the Society's Godfrey Hewitt Mobility Awards Initiative (annual budget € 10,000). Four projects from 2019 were successfully finished, while three were extended and one was withdrawn due to the Corona pandemic. Six new projects were granted in 2020.
- Managing the Society's Global Training Initiative (annual budget € 12,000). No new project was selected for funding in 2020.
- Managing the Society's JMS Prize 2020 (annual budget € 5,000). The prize was awarded to Camilo Barbosa in 2020.
- Managing the Society's Outreach Initiative (annual budget € 20,000). Ten new projects were granted in 2020. These projects, plus six projects that were granted in 2019, are ongoing and all received an extension due to the Corona pandemic.
- Managing the Society's Progress Meetings Initiative (annual budget € 15,000). One project was granted in 2020 which has been postponed to 2022 due to the Corona pandemic.
- Managing the Society's Stearns Graduate Students Prize 2019 (annual budget € 1000). The Prize has been awarded to Tom Keaney.
- Managing the Society's Special Topic Networks Initiative (annual budget € 60,000). Six STNs are running in 2020.

**These activities will be continued in 2021 in accordance with the Policy Plan 2019-2021 but dependent on the situation due to the ongoing world-wide pandemic.**

In addition, (the Executive Board of) ESEB has been involved in:

- Preparation of a series of eight virtual seminars in 2021 managed by the Prague congress organisers.

- Maintaining the Society's contacts with Wiley Blackwell for publication of *JEB*, and, together with the sister society SSE, managing of the jointly owned journal *EL*.
- Managing the Society's memberships.
- Managing the Society's financial situation in terms of expenditures and income, as well as its bank accounts.
- Preparing a budget plan for 2021, and a long-term spending plan; deciding to invest part of the capital of the Society.
- Managing the ESEB office and establishing and maintaining a *JEB* editorial office.
- General other businesses associated with the Society.

**These activities will be continued in 2021 in line with the Policy Plan 2019-2021 but dependent on the situation due to the ongoing world-wide pandemic.**

<i>Place,</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>
		Ophélie Ronce	_____ ESEB President
		Koen Verhoeven	_____ ESEB Executive Vice President
		Wolf Blanckenhorn	_____ JEB Editor-in-Chief
		Mike Ritchie	_____ EL Officer
		John Pannell	_____ ESEB Secretary