

Activities Report 2023

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 2023, 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:

- Tracey Chapman*
- Ellen Decaestecker*
- Toni Gabaldon,
- Astrid Groot,
- Josefa Gonzalez,
- Max Reuter*
- Michael Ritchie,
- Rhonda Snook*,
- Kees van Oers*

ESEB performed the following activities during 2023

In accordance with the foreseen activities in the Policy Plan 2021-2023 the following activities have been realised. See the accompanying Annual Report 2023 for the detailed accounting of these activities.

- Publication of the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* and *Evolution Letters*.
- 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 and 2029. Approval of organising the ESEB 2027 congress as hub meeting in four locations and preparation for this meeting.

- Commitment to sponsor the annual meeting of European PhD students in Evolutionary Biology (EMPSEB) with € 15,000. The 2023 meeting took place in Scotland, UK.
- Commitment to sponsor the EvoKE network with € 10,000 annually. This support will not be continued in 2024.
- Managing the Society's Conference Travel Award Initiative (annual budget € 15,000). Two awards have been granted for either EMPSEB or the ESEB congress.
- Managing the Society's newly established Environmental Impact Committee.
- Managing the Society's Equal Opportunities Initiative (annual budget € 15,000). Seven EO funds and eight Congress Attendance Aid grants were granted in 2023. Two researchers received the ESEB Under-represented ECR Achievement award in 2023.
- Managing the Society's Godfrey Hewitt Mobility Awards Initiative (annual budget € 15,000). Nine new projects were granted in 2023.
- Managing the Society's Global Evolutionary Biology Initiative (annual budget € 12,000). The first open call for proposals was launched in 2022, five projects received funds in 2023 and reports will be evaluated in 2024.
- Managing the Society's JMS Prize 2023 (annual budget € 5,000). The prize was awarded to Paul Jay in 2023.
- Managing the Society's Policy Committee (annual budget € 10,000). The financial support for the committee will end in 2023.
- Managing the Society's Outreach Initiative (annual budget € 20,000). Six new projects were granted in 2023.
- Managing the Society's Progress Meetings Initiative (annual budget € 15,000). One new project was granted in 2023. The initiative was ended in 2023.
- Managing the Society's Stearns Graduate Students Prize 2022 (annual budget € 1000). Three researchers received the prize in 2023.
- Managing the Society's Special Topic Networks Initiative (annual budget € 60,000). Three STNs ended in 2023. Four new STNs were granted and five STNs were continued in 2023.

All activities but the support for EvoKE, the Policy Committee, and the initiative "Progress Meetings in Evolutionary Biology", will be continued in 2024 in accordance with the Policy Plan 2023-2025.

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

- Maintaining the Society's contacts with Wiley Blackwell for publication of JEB.
- Negotiating and signing a new publishing agreement for JEB with Oxford University Press effective as of January 1st, 2024.
- Managing, together with the sister society SSE, the jointly owned journal EL. Therefore, established an Oversight committee including two SSE representatives, two ESEB representatives, and one independent member.
- Managing the Society's memberships.

- Managing the Society's financial situation in terms of expenditures and income, as well as its bank accounts and investment portfolio.
- Preparing a budget plan for 2024, and a long-term spending plan.
- Managing the ESEB office and the JEB editorial office.
- General other businesses associated with the Society.

These activities will be continued in 2024 in line with the Policy Plan 2023-2025.

Date:	Name	Signature
	Tracey Chapman	_____ President
	Astrid Groot	_____ Past President
	Mike Ritchie	_____ President elect
	Josefa González	_____ Vice-President
	Kees van Oers	_____ Executive Vice-President
	Max Reuter	_____ JEB Editor-in-Chief
	Rhonda Snook	_____ EL Officer
	Ellen Decaestecker	_____ Secretary
	Toni Gabaldon	_____ Congress Organiser