

END YEAR REPORT

2019-2020



32nd Board
Sociologisch EpiCentrum (SEC)

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Preface

Dear reader,

It has already been a year since the 32nd board of SEC started its journey, and all good things must come to an end, even this one. We are now at the point that we can look back on our board year and assess how we did, and whether we reached the goals we set for ourselves at the beginning of the year.

It was always clear that we would be the board of SEC for a year, but now writing the last and final report, it sinks in that it is truly over, which is a bittersweet feeling. The past year was not easy, being in a world-wide pandemic and all, but also more mundane things as early meetings and fixing last-minute things for events. Despite the hardships we had to go through, I think that it was an extremely educational year for all of us, and it was an opportunity for us to do and learn things that we would otherwise never have gotten to do.

And so, one last time, on behalf of the 32nd board of SEC, I hope you will enjoy reading our end year report. The GMM will take place on the 10th of September and we hope you will all be there to ask your questions. If you cannot attend the GMM, but still have a question you can always reach us on one of our social media or come by our board room.

Kind regards,

Dewi Maten

Chair 2019-2020

Chair

The past year I have had the pleasure to be the chair of SEC. It definitely was not always an easy or clear role to fulfil but I did it to the best of my ability, and have grown into the role of the chair in many ways.

Communication

Internal

When working together so closely with four very different people, communication, as cliché as it sounds, is key. I have accomplished creating a safe space for my board members in which everyone can express their opinions and ideas during (and outside) of our meetings. I have tried to make it so that everyone is and feels heard and valued within our board. All of us have improved enormously regarding communication when we look back at the way things were at the beginning of the year. During our board year, we have all gotten accustomed to each other due to the long hours we spent together in the board room, at events, etc. which has helped us get to know each other, as well as better understand each other, which has helped improving our communication significantly.

External

The past year, I was the one appointed to attend most of the meetings with external parties, such as the Programme Committee (PC), Landelijk Overleg Sociologie (LOS), Kring Amsterdamse Sociologen (KAS), and departmental meetings. I always went if my schedule allowed it, but sadly this was not always the case. Together with our sister associations, we made the decision not to host an event for the LOS this year due to the coronavirus as well as a yearly decline in attendance. Rather, from now on we will be using the LOS only to host meetings and where we can discuss overlapping issues and exchange best practices. The KAS had the same issue of declining attendance, as well as having difficulty getting in touch with its members due to new privacy laws.

Additionally, I was also the Secretary and Borrel Committee (BoCo) Coordinator of the Fv-FMG, which put me in a position to maintain good relationships with our brother associations, as well as gain insights of what is going on within the Faculty and help think about issues that concern us all. As part of the BoCo, I was also able to organize small events in which we got together with our brothers and simply has fun.

Lastly, the communication with our members this year was especially difficult once we were all quarantined at home, and the only way we were able to reach them was through our social media channels. We tried our best to upgrade our social media game, making it more fun and interactive for our members, so we could stay in touch with them.

Internationalization

Internationalization was and still is one of the biggest obstacles SEC has to face, and I hope that the 32nd board has contributed to making the association more accessible for international students. A big asset we had this year is, of course, our dear Secretary, Ilaria. Ilaria and I worked hard on the website to update and translate it as much as possible, so that all the information for international students is up to date. I also managed to install a webshop so that we will be able to sell things such as tickets and goodies.

Despite our efforts be as inclusive as possible, the language barrier is still a very prevalent problem regarding internationalization, which cannot be solved overnight. We tried to speak English most of the time, but it is very easy to slip up. I hope that the next board will be able to improve regarding this respect. The 33rd board will have two international students, which I hope allows them to focus on internationalization and inclusivity even more than we did.

Evaluation

My last point of the end year report is evaluations. Evaluating events and each other helps us gain insights on how and whether we can improve. When we are critical of ourselves and others, it allows us to spot mistakes we might not see ourselves and will ultimately help us grow in our respective functions. Due to the pandemic and being quarantined in our homes, we had a lot of time to reflect on ourselves and each other, which is why we dedicated an entire meeting to evaluate the board and the way we worked, which I found very insightful and useful.

Looking back, I had a wonderful time being the chair of SEC. From early meetings to late borrels, I enjoyed it all, and I hope that Victor will also be able to gain as many new experiences as being the chair allowed me to have.

Dewi Maten – Chair 2019-2020

Secretary

The time has now come to wrap up my year as secretary of SEC. Leaving the association behind comes with a bittersweet taste but this year has left me with a long-life experience to cherish.

The function of the secretary allowed me to be challenged and to learn more about my capabilities and limitations. My main tasks revolved around managing promotion and social media, taking minutes during the board meetings and being an active voice in the decision and organization of all our events. As secretary, I wanted to make sure our members would be updated regularly on social media posts and with monthly newsletters.

The study association has faced a very new and complicated situation due to the current pandemic. Alongside having to cancel all our events planned from March onwards, we had to readjust and figure out how to deal with the situation. Our main goal was to keep in touch with the members as much as we could. We organized online borrels via Discord and Zoom, a Netflix party, a book club and kept our social media active with ideas such as cooking classes on Instagram.

Internationalization

One of my initial goals for the year was to help the internalization process of the association. English was spoken more and hopefully had an impact on the inclusion of non-Dutch members in our events. The presence of an English-speaking board member greatly helped with this. In fact, throughout the year we have witnessed great interest and participation coming from a good portion of international students. Despite organizing accessible events for everyone, there were still some troubles in mixing international and Dutch students.

Creative content and promotion

Social media was our main instrument to reach students, members and non. I decided to post more pictures from our events on our Instagram. I made sure the photos included only our members so we would make sure to comply with the privacy statement they signed. I believe it is crucial to show how the SEC events look like. I strongly encourage the new board to keep doing that in the upcoming years. People want more personal content rather than constant posters and promo of events. It is really important to find the balance here.

Despite the initial intention to post bilingual posts, both in English and Dutch, we realized this was very time-consuming and was not making a considerable difference.

English became the main language of communication which in my opinion is the best way to reach everyone without too much hassle.

Website

Throughout the year the website was regularly updated with the events taking place, photos, newsletters and available vacancies. We have finally managed to introduce a new feature to the website: a webshop. Members can now buy tickets and goodies easily. The webshop turned out to be a great option to sell goodies, specifically the annual member sweater.

The new board has already implemented some great aesthetical and efficient changes to improve the website.

Newsletter

At the beginning of the year, I slightly changed the previously used template for the monthly newsletters. I made the emails look more organized and always followed the same structure, with a nice catchy introduction, the upcoming events, pictures of previous events and a more personal final section.

The engagement and opening rate of the newsletters went down throughout the year. This in a way reflected the decrease of active members. Nonetheless, I put great care into the newsletters and tried to make them simple but straight to the point. I challenged my creative writing and introduced more personal sections with recommendations and things to do in Amsterdam, tips and funny memes about learning Dutch and Dutch culture.

Other tasks worth mentioning

In addition to my Secretary tasks, I actively participated in the organization of the annual multidisciplinary FMG congress in collaboration with the other study associations. Our hard work materialized in a great event which we had to, unfortunately, cancel 1 hour before showtime due to COVID-19. It was a great opportunity to work alongside board members from other associations and create something together. In addition to learning new skills whilst organizing and planning all kinds of aspects for the congress, having to cancel it last minute also taught me a great deal.

Finally, I also supervised and coordinated the Study Trip Committee. With the help of 5 amazing committee members, we planned an exciting week trip to Morocco. The study trip committee is one of the most hard-working ones and with the help of usually enthusiastic members, the workflow is smooth and fun.

After planning the trip for months, the trip was met with great excitement and it was disappointing to see the trip fall apart. Before the final touches, we collectively had to decide to cancel the trip in May to follow the travel regulations and ensure the safety of our members.

It brings me great joy to reminisce about all that we managed to organize and do with the association. I enjoyed being in contact with so many new people, attending events, going to borrels even when I just wanted to be at home and sleep. This was all possible thanks to my pretty cool fellow board members, Dewi, Ilse and Charlotte.

I wish all the best of luck to the new board – Victor, Merle, Pieter, Nuria and Divya. It will be an interesting challenge to manage the association during these weird times. I am sure they will pull through and bring back SEC in the best way they can.

Ilaria Monese – Secretary 2019-2020

Treasurer

For the past year, I have been the treasurer for SEC with great pleasure. As treasurer, my main responsibility has been monitoring the incomes and expenses of SEC. I have learned a lot this year and although we have faced some (financial) challenges the past year, we always managed to solve them. At the beginning of the year I set some goals in my policy plans, some of which I have achieved, and some of which I have not. In this report, I will go through them and explain them.

Daily management

The daily management has mostly remained similar to previous years. At the beginning of the year, I made a year budget, and throughout the year we tweaked it where necessary, and referred to it when making budgets for events. Charlotte and I made a budget for each event throughout the year and always made sure to stay within it, which sometimes meant we had to adjust it multiple times when things did not go as planned, for example, if not enough people had signed up for an event or costs fell out higher than expected, but in the end, we were always able to work it out with the board. After an event, Charlotte or I made a realization, and just like other years, I used Conscribo to do the accounting.

As mentioned in my half-year report, this year we created a new Conscribo account which came with some struggles of having to transfer everything from the old to the new account, but in the end, I am glad we made that decision since we now have a clearer overview of our finances, which also makes it easier for the cash audit committee to check our expenses.

Financial policy

This year was the second year of SEC being bilingual, therefore we had more members than ever before. Because of this, we planned on investing more money into activities to ensure that activities could be larger and more people could come. We hoped that this would lead to higher attendance of events. Unfortunately, this did not work out the way we planned it. Because of the pandemic, we were not able to organize all the events we planned to; therefore, we were not able to spend any money on those of course. But even before the pandemic started, we did not see a much higher attendance to our events than the year before.

The fact that we had more members this year also justified our higher subsidy request (compared to previous years).

Although we did end up getting the subsidy we requested, and even more, we were not able to spend it all since we had to cancel most of our events, we planned to spend it on due to the pandemic. This resulted in us having to give a large part of our subsidy back to the UvA this year. However, this should not be a problem for the upcoming year since the UvA has reassured us that our lower use of subsidy this year will not affect our subsidy requests in the future.

Last year as well as this year we noticed that as an association, we are not liquid enough. Therefore, we planned on making neither a loss nor a profit this year. As you can see in the realization, we ended up making some profit. This is because a lot of our events got cancelled due to the coronavirus. Since we have noticed that we are not liquid enough as an association and have been wanting to become more liquid, this money can stay on the SEC bank account and can be used in the future if necessary.

Acquisition

To compensate for the declining profits of the book sales, we were planning on starting with the acquisition this year. We put a relatively low goal for ourselves for the year to try to get started with the acquisition. However, as can be seen in the realization, we, unfortunately, did not manage to acquire any acquisition. One of the reasons for this is that since it was the first year of trying for acquisition, we did not know exactly how to go about approaching companies and we did not have a clear plan for it beforehand. Another reason is that since we were only a board of four people, we were all quite busy with all our other tasks, and therefore acquisition was not our top priority. We were also unsure of what companies to approach since we are quite a small association and feel we do not have as much to offer as some other association.

We ended up contacting a few companies but with little success. We did talk to one company who was interested in working with us, but we were too late to arrange anything for this year, but hopefully next year the new board can work something out with them. Since we noticed that our acquisition was not going well during the year, Dewi and I went to an acquisition training offered by ASVA. This was quite helpful and we learned some useful tips. We have shared these tips with the new board and we hope that that information together with our experiences this year will help the new board to be more successful in acquiring acquisition.

Academic activities committee

Besides my treasurer-related tasks, also coordinated the academic activities committee this year. One of my main goals with this committee was to improve the collaboration with Kwakiutl, and I think I have achieved this goal. I discussed how Kwakiutl's study coordinator and I have done this in my half-year report, but the main points of improvement I would say were having meetings with both committees together, and generally keeping each other updated on what we are doing.

Another goal for this committee was to have more contact with companies, to bring students and companies closer together. Although my committee and I have contacted some companies during the year, I do not think we quite succeeded in bringing students closer to them. For 'The Other Perspective,' we contacted a few companies but we did not receive any replies. We also contacted companies for the company visit we were planning, but this, unfortunately, got cancelled due to the pandemic.

My last goal for this committee was to organize some different events from the previous year to try to get students more interested in academic events and have higher attendance at these events. Although we planned to organize different events, most of them got cancelled because of the coronavirus. We did, however, have an Alumni event which, although not very different from previous years, had higher attendance than we expected and we received positive feedback on.

National Sociology Congress (LOS)

This year I was part of organizing the national sociology congress (LOS) together with Dewi and all the other sociology associations in the Netherlands. As mentioned in my half-year report, the idea was to not organize a congress this year. However, after discussing other ideas and the idea of organizing a congress at a different time in the year, we ended up deciding that the LOS would not organize anything this year. The main reason for this is that the congress has had a very low turnout in the past and we could not think of a way to make sure this improves. Another reason is that the fact that the congress is usually a lot of work for a low turnout causes a lack of motivation to organize it among the members of the LOS. We have therefore advised the future LOS members to not organize an event but to use it as a consultative body.

Ilse van Engen – Treasurer 2019-2020

Coordinator Committees

The last academic year, 2019-2020, I served SEC as coordinator committees. The first half of the year I discussed at the half-year report, but I will provide a summary. The second half of the year was a strange one due to corona.

Committees

After the half-year report the borrel and party committee were combined. The members of the borrel committee quit and we had to think of a solution. Every theme borrel was going to be organized by two people from the party committee. This led to some communication problems with Kwakiutl. They were solved once the schedule was clear and shared.

The party committee could not organise any events after corona hit. The contact was gone because nobody replied. Because of corona, we as a board were not sure about what to organize and how to use the committees. This led to losing our committees. I hope this year the new board will find a way to still make use of a committee like this even though parties are not allowed.

The promotion committee had a schedule for making the posters. They did it in time and did it themselves. The hoodies were finally finished, and I think they came with a great design made by a fellow student. They also decided on what kind of goodies to use. Their tasks were small and there was no challenge. I think that the promotion committee needs to be revised for next year and the new board is looking into that.

Events

The only physical events I organized were the Open mic night, the trip to Ghent and Valentine's borrel before corona.

Open mic night

The location for the Open mic night was a success. The staff was great and helped us a lot. They had a place where we could install everything. The one problem was that people could stay and had dinner while we were setting up.

We made a list of performances and a schedule. The schedule worked great. After the schedule, we had some free time for karaoke. The only problem we faced with that was that we didn't set an end time.

This meant that nobody knew when to clean, when to stop and when they could leave. For the next time, an end-time would be suggested. We kept the decoration simple and used the budget for snacks. This meant the event was free.

Tip to Ghent

The trip to Ghent was a success. We found a great hostel and the trip towards the hostel went well. There were two rooms so people slept together. Breakfast was included, which was a big advantage.

We organized a few events but not all of them worked out. We did not check everything beforehand, this led to some difficulties. Some places were closed or different than expected. The bar hop was also difficult because many cafes did not have space for a group as big as us. There was a lot of free time in the schedule and because of those mistakes, there was even more. People still had a lot of fun, but it could have been better.

The transportation back went wrong. Without a warning, Flixbus changed our trip to the next day. We made sure the trip would take place that day, but later. A part of the group went by train and a part stayed in Ghent.

Valentine's borrel

The valentine borrel was a success as well. We had a lot of decorations, the communication between Kwakiutl and SEC was good and the activity worked out well. We made pairs of 1 SEC and 1 Kwakiutl member. We also made a list of questions. This led to more mixing and nice conversations.

Online events

We did a few online borrels. This was not much work for me to do preparing for that. I did help to think about a few online activities but it also those were not that much work.

I learned a lot this year and will keep on learning. I noticed that my leadership skills still can improve, and I hope my successor learns from my mistakes. Also, my communication skills improved, even though they still can improve. It was weird to have a pandemic during my board year, but it triggered my creativity and I hope it will do so with the new board.

Charlotte Takes – Coordinator Committees 2019-2020

End-year realization

Realisation of study association SEC, 2019-2020					
Activity	Expenses	Income	Subsidy request	Profit/loss	Difference
Member contribution	€ 0,00	€ 2.670,00	€ 0,00	€ 2.670,00	-430,00
Book sales	€ 0,00	€ 1.840,00	€ 0,00	€ 1.840,00	-260,00
Acquisition	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-300,00
CS	€ 3.605,18	€ 1.440,00	€ 2.250,00	€ 84,82	1.234,82
CF	€ 3.535,87	€ 2.477,22	€ 250,00	-€ 808,65	1.241,35
Association costs	€ 3.137,01	€ 473,43	€ 1.930,53	-€ 733,05	1.566,95
Total	€ 10.278,06	€ 8.900,65	€ 4.430,53	€ 3.053,12	

Academic Activities Committee (CS)					
Activity	Expenses	Income	Subsidy request	Profit/loss	Difference
The Other Perspective	€ 53,72	€ 0,00	€ 200,00	€ 146,28	146,28
Movie nights	€ 106,32	€ 0,00	€ 500,00	€ 393,68	393,68
Easter lunch	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 300,00	€ 300,00	300,00
Career/Master activity	€ 252,17	€ 0,00	€ 400,00	€ 147,83	147,83
Company visits	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 300,00	€ 300,00	300,00
Landelijk Sociologie Congres	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 150,00	€ 150,00	150,00
Memberweekend	€ 1.997,92	€ 1.440,00	€ 400,00	-€ 157,92	142,08
Study trip	€ 945,05	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 945,05	-345,05
Buffer	€ 250,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 250,00	0,00
Total	€ 3.605,18	€ 1.440,00	€ 2.250,00	€ 84,82	

Committees Partys and Activities (CF)					
Activity	Expenses	Income	Subsidy request	Profit/loss	Difference
Introduction weekend	€ 2.240,58	€ 1.893,15	€ 0,00	-€ 347,43	52,57
Theme Borrels	€ 160,42	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 160,42	39,58
Decemberdinner	€ 688,56	€ 250,00	€ 250,00	-€ 188,56	11,44
Party 1	€ 312,50	€ 334,07	€ 0,00	€ 21,57	21,57
CEA activities	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	250,00
Prom	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	0,00
End of the year festival	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	500,00
Association room events	€ 52,83	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 52,83	47,17
Open mic night	€ 80,98	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 80,98	19,02
Buffer	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	300,00
Total	€ 3.535,87	€ 2.477,22	€ 250,00	-€ 808,65	

Association costs					
Activity	Expenses	Income	Subsidy request	Profit/loss	
Bank costs	€ 180,45	€ 0,17	€ 250,00	€ 69,72	69,72
Transaction costs pin	€ 12,82	€ 0,00	€ 60,00	€ 47,18	47,18
Accounting program	€ 217,07	€ 0,00	€ 188,03	-€ 29,04	-29,04
Internationalization Landelijk Sociologie Congres	€ 250,00	€ 0,00	€ 250,00	€ 0,00	0,00
Office supplies	€ 137,60	€ 25,45	€ 300,00	€ 187,85	187,85
Websitehosting Association representation	€ 35,40	€ 0,00	€ 40,00	€ 4,60	89,60
Trainings	€ 980,24	€ 433,53	€ 300,00	-€ 246,71	53,29
Board sweaters	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 130,00	€ 130,00	130,00
Membership ASVA CLU's (commissieledenluitjes)	€ 179,28	€ 14,28	€ 0,00	-€ 165,00	0,00
Contribution FV-FMG ALV's (General Assembly)	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 12,50	€ 12,50	12,50
Constitutionborrel	€ 266,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 266,00	534,00
Board costs	€ 100,00	€ 0,00	€ 100,00	€ 0,00	0,00
Board transfer	€ 85,26	€ 0,00	€ 150,00	€ 64,74	64,74
Buffer	€ 430,20	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 430,20	69,80
Total	€ 135,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 135,00	15,00
	€ 98,65	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 98,65	1,35
	€ 29,04	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 29,04	170,96
Total	€ 3.137,01	€ 473,43	€ 1.930,53	-€ 733,05	