

Policy plans

2020 - 2021



33rd Board

Sociologisch EpiCentrum (SEC)

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Preface

Dear reader,

On behalf of SEC's 33rd candidate board I would like to thank you for taking the time to read our policy plan for the year 2020-2021. A new board in a year where we don't even know everything we can do or cannot do. But let's focus on the first part; what can we do. Even though Covid-19 affects us all mentally and physically, there is good hope that the virus can be controlled; a vaccine is being tested thoroughly as we speak. Even without a vaccine, there is still a lot that we can do.

This year we will have to be creative and flexible in creating physical and virtual events with SEC. However, we don't have to create everything from nothing. While standing on the shoulders of 32 giants, old ideas and structures will be filled up or replaced by new ones. We have had 32 amazing boards before us, and we have learned and will learn a lot from all the previous board members. Especially the previous board: Dewi, Ilaria, Ilse and Charlotte have taught us a lot in the last few weeks, so I would like to thank them kindly for their time and patience while teaching us the tricks of the trade. We are eager to continue building on what previous SEC board members have established so far. This year, we will try to improve as many aspects as possible within SEC. One aspect that needs our attention is the internationalization within SEC, so both Dutch and international students come together. Another aspect we will focus on this year is the academic events. We have one extra board member this year, because the coordinator function is split up into a study coordinator and a social coordinator. In this way, there will be more room to focus more on our academic events, while still organizing a lot of social events. The main challenge for us this year will be the organization of events in a safe, corona-friendly way. SEC will be organizing a lot of activities again this year, whether it will be online or offline. We cannot wait to see you at our next borrel, lecture, trip or party.

We hope that you are able to agree with our plans this year, but we are always very open to comments or suggestions regarding our policy plans. I speak on behalf of the whole 33rd board when I say that we will do our absolute best and are all very eager to start our board year at SEC.

Kind regards,

Victor Steenmeijer
Candidate Chair 2020-2021

Chair

My name is Victor Steenmeijer and I will be the chair of SEC in the academic year of 2020/2021. This year I will focus on communication and upgrades/improvements. Communication is the key ingredient for good relationships within our study association and our board, but also for our external contacts, such as teachers, sponsors and brother associations. Upgrades and improvements are necessary to keep SEC interesting for our members. I want our board to improve where possible, whether it is for the sake of internationalization, promotion or sustainability. With every step that we take, I want us to think “why are we doing it like this?”. I want our members and future boards to remember the 33rd board as the board that made changes for the better.

Communication

Internal

As the chair of SEC, I have a managerial role within the board. This means it is my duty to create an open environment, where every board member feels safe to share their views and ideas and where it is okay to speak up when something is wrong. To make sure this will be the case, there will be one on one meetings throughout the year. In these meetings board members can share how they feel and let me know what they like or dislike within the board. The tasks will also be evaluated, so everyone will be able to grow in their positions this year.

Next to this, there will be multiple informal activities with the board throughout the year, so we can get to know each other better on a personal level. These activities vary from having a drink together to going away for a weekend. For internal contact within the study association, I will schedule evaluations with committee members and will do everything I can to make sure our activities are a safe space for students to connect with each other. This year we will also have our secretary Merle as a trust person within the board.

External

As chair of the study association, good external communication is also very important. To achieve this, I will be attending departmental meetings and meetings of the Program Committee. Besides this, there will be close contact with our seven fellow study associations of the faculty. I have meetings with these ‘brother’ associations every two weeks within the Fv-FMG, in which I will be the treasurer and vice-chair. I will also have personal contact with the other members of the Fv-FMG to share best-practices and start new collaborations.

This year we will also focus more on acquisition. We’ve already landed Knaek, CBS and TentamenTrainingen as new partners for the coming year and it will be my responsibility to keep close and warm contact with all our new and existing partners.

Upgrades and Improvements

Internationalization

The segregation between Dutch and international students is still quite high within our study and study association. Therefore, I am happy to announce that two out of the five board members are international students. A small adjustment are the e-mail addresses. All Dutch titles are translated to the English titles; for example voorzitter@sociologen.nl is now chair@sociologen.nl. Núria and Divya will be working on the internationalization throughout this year.

Website

The website could use some upgrades too. In the summer vacation, I upgraded the homepage of the website and the ‘become a member’ page. The homepage deserved a make-over, whereas the ‘become a member’ page needed an upgrade. Becoming a member is now much easier and fully online. Making payments is now done via a payment link instead of manually and signing the Terms & Conditions, the Privacy Statement and the SEPA direct debit mandate are now signed digitally and not by hand anymore. This makes it easier to become a member and makes the process faster and more corona friendly. Merle will be working on updating the website throughout this year.

This is only a small section of the upgrades and improvements yet to come. With good communication I hope to motivate my fellow board members to have a productive and fun board year. With upgrades and improvements within SEC, I hope to inspire my fellow board members to always go for the best. I hope that they will recognize the opportunity that is given them, so they can improve their skills for the future and have fun along the way. I hope that Merle, Pieter, Núria and Divya go to SEC events singing and go back whistling.

Victor Steenmeijer, Candidate Chair 2020-2021

Secretary

My name is Merle de la Rie, I am a third-year student and will be secretary this year. I will be in charge of the social media (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn), the website, the promotion, the newsletter and the membership file. I answer most of the emails, take notes during the meetings and I am the point of contact for members. Due to this last responsibility, I am this year's trust person. I will elaborate on my plans for this year.

Social media

The social media outlets I will be using are Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. I will focus on Instagram the most, a lot of our members are active on here and it is a nice way to communicate with the members. We want our Instagram account to be a platform where we can talk to our members, help them and discuss interesting things with them, instead of only promoting our events. It's my goal to post more pictures of the board and members in the form of promotion and updates. By doing this I hope that the members feel more connected to SEC and will show up at events more. I will use Facebook mainly for the promotion of events.

Our LinkedIn has been neglected the last couple of years, so I want to update it more this year. Our LinkedIn is very important for the academic and more professional side of SEC. When we keep this updated, we can stay in touch with our alumni and post about our academic events. This would be interesting for people who are interested in the academic side of SEC. The contact with alumni could be beneficial when we are in need of speakers or guests for career related events.

Promotion

I will be handling the promotion on my own. We decided to not have a promotion committee this year. We do not think that there's enough work to have an actual committee for it and I want the promotion to be consistent and matching. This goal is easier to reach by doing it alone. I will be asking for input of the committee members when making promotion for events that they organized.

Instead of a promotion committee we decided that we want to ask our members when we need something so that we can still show the creativity and talent of our members, for example asking people to send in a design for our sweater.

Newsletter

The newsletter will not change a lot. Nina's and Ilaria's newsletters were very clear and looked very nice. I will be sharing our upcoming events and an update about our past events. In addition to that I want to give some tips either about things to do in Amsterdam or anywhere in the world due to not everybody being in Amsterdam in the first semester. I can

switch this up with some more personal information about the board or members, by asking them a question for example.

Trust person

Something new we're doing this year is having a trust person for the association. Divya and I took part in a sexual harassment workshop where we learned the importance of having somebody to go to when somebody/something crosses your boundaries. We learned what actions to take and how to help somebody. Because I am handling the communication, we decided that it would be best if I am the trust person.

My goal for this is first of all, that all of the members know that we have a trust person and that they can come to me. Then I want the members to feel that they can trust me and see me as approachable. Then I will make sure to help them get the help they need.

Additional tasks

Next to my secretary related activities, the treasurer Pieter and I are the representatives for the Landelijk Overleg Sociologie (LOS). This is where we stay in contact with the other Dutch Sociology associations. This year we will not be organizing a congress. Instead we want to use the LOS to exchange information about our experiences so that we can help each other.

Merle de la Rie, Candidate Secretary 2020-2021

Treasurer

My name is Pieter Schmidt, and I'm the candidate treasurer 2019 – 2020. I will explain my vision for the financial policy of SEC during the coming year in this statement. The daily management will remain mostly the same this year. Together with the board and the previous treasurer I have created a temporary budget, which we will use to apply for subsidies from the College of Social Sciences and the Graduate School of Social Sciences.

Throughout the year I will make sure that my board is aware of the financial status of our association. I will work with the social and academic coordinators, Divya and Nuría to keep an overview of the expenses of the committees and assist them in their position as treasurer of each committee. While at first I plan to use budgets per event, during the course of the year I may shift to a budget per committee where possible as we will not be able to organise a lot of events in the original intended way due to the Corona virus regulations. I hope that this approach may give us some extra flexibility to still organize events and connect with our members, despite the obvious limitations. I will be using the same accounting program as my predecessor to collect contributions and monitor transactions.

Financial Policy

For the year 2020 – 2021 I have decided in consultation with my predecessor to make a zero budget. This means that we will make neither a profit or a loss. This decision has to do with the fact that in previous years we have not always been as liquid as we have had to be.

We will use income to organize events to reach and connect with our growing member base. I have also upped several subsidy requests at the recommendation of my predecessor, seeing as SEC has been paying for things such as web hosting, transaction costs etc. partly by itself, where other associations are fully subsidized in this regard. In the budget I have outlined a buffer for every section. This money is to be used in the event of an emergency or a miscalculation. In the event that by the end of the year these buffers have not been needed, we will not be spending these. This is a way of slowly growing our equity and compensating for the diminishing income from the book sales. While obviously not a long-term solution, it is a way of preparing for a financially wise bad-year without actively keeping money from being spent on events.

Another goal I have set together with the rest of the candidate board is to switch banks. The investment policy at ING, our current bank, is known to be neither environmentally friendly nor ethical. During the course of the year we will most likely switch to Bunq. Bunq has proven itself to be a viable alternative to ING both quality wise and a more responsible investment policy.

Acquisition

The trend that the book sales, which is our main source of income, decline every year has sadly survived. Students seem to either choose for second hand books or online copies, which we can not realistically compete with. To supplement this we chose to continue with last year's acquisition goals. Over the summer I met with the secretary, Merle and the chair, Victor to contact companies and explore the possibilities. While not every company was responsive to our messages, we have several that seemed to be open for a collaboration. At the moment it does not yet seem to result in actual income though, our new partners seem more interested in providing us with goodies and other materials. We will continue searching for new lucrative partnerships during the year.

Additional tasks

Together with the secretary, Merle, I am a representative of SEC at the Landelijk Overleg Sociologie (LOS). Every sociology bachelor course in the Netherlands sends a delegation to the LOS. Through these meetings, the LOS offers us a platform where we can meet and converse with other student boards about their experiences and offer each other advice. In the past the LOS has organized an annual congress, which has been cancelled. We are curious however to explore the possibilities of organizing a sociological activity on a national scale.

Pieter Schmidt, Candidate Treasurer 2020-2021

Study Coordinator

I, Núria Sánchez, will be SEC's Study Coordinator for the academic year 2020/2021.

There were several things that motivated me to join SEC in the first place, such as the opportunity to dive deeper into academic life and the development of professional skills. However, as I started to plan my proposal for events and activities, I realized that my main incentive is being able to help other students -mostly first years-, both in a practical sense, with everyday issues that come with moving to a new country/city and university life, and in an academic sense, inspiring them to search for knowledge and passion for studying and learning outside of the traditional ways.

As study coordinator I will be in charge of all academic events and activities. Although I plan to be innovative, there are some events that traditionally happen every year and I would like to carry out: 'The Other Perspective', the FMG congress and the annual study trip.

I believe that as sociology students, we are lucky to find our subject of study everywhere and at all times. Thus, during my board year I wish to motivate students to pursue knowledge outside of the classroom too. I would like to organise events and activities that can be not only informative but also a conversation starter, a glimpse into new debates and an opportunity to become part of the sharing of knowledge, rather than solely part of an audience. In order to achieve these goals I will attempt to organise events such as: open lectures, an interactive book club where open discussions will be the main focus, museum/exhibition trips, 'movie & debate' nights where our sociological knowledge and interests can be applied to mainstream and popular culture, and workshops where useful skills for academic life can be learned, among others.

Committees

As part of my role as Study coordinator I will be in charge of chairing two committees: the academic activities committee and the study trip committee.

Academic activities committee: This committee focuses on organising academic events of all types. Activities will mostly focus on expanding our members sociological knowledge, with events such as open lectures, book club events, museum trips, debates and so on; Nonetheless, I would also like to carry out career related events where students can be informed about the possibilities on the labour market, and inspired by alumni stories.

Study trip committee: every year SEC organises a study trip, and although at the current time it is impossible to know whether we will be able to do so this year, I will lead this committee with enthusiasm and hope that even if it ends up not being possible we find a good alternative. I think my traveling experience will help me chair this committee and organise the trip to everyone's liking. In addition, I will try to find new and original ways to aid our cause financially, looking into EU grants for study associations and so on, so that we can offer our members a more accessible trip and/or better activities/ food/ accommodation during the trip.

Additional Tasks

Given the current situation and the fact that the social coordinator is abroad for a few months, we have decided to apply some slight changes to our roles within the coordinator positions.

Divya Jalan, the Social coordinator, and I have decided to work closely together at least for the first semester. That is to say, we will each focus on our positions and lead our own committees, but we will discuss everything together and rely on each other's opinions and personal skills in order to organise events to the best of our abilities. Particularly regarding corona guidelines and how they apply to events, Divya Jalan will focus a bit more on the online presence and I will focus a bit more on the in-person presence and traditional coordinator role.

Diversity and Internationalization

In addition to our main roles, Divya Jalan and I will actively work on the internationalization of the association and shining light on the importance of diversity within our members, and in our events. Regarding internationalization, we seek to motivate international and Dutch members to interact more, and undertake the responsibility of making sure all information is available in English. Regarding diversity, we attempt to create an environment where all our members feel safe to be their true self, ensuring true representation of all kinds in our activities, and making sure all our events are free of ableism of any kind and accessible to everyone. We wish to be able to create social and academic events where cultural exchange and appreciation is the main focus.

Concrete Goals:

- I will try my best to be friendly and approachable to first years, so students feel comfortable to reach out if they need help.
- Carrying out new and original academic events.
- Promoting more interaction and friendship between international and dutch students, as well as a better appreciation of the diversity in our programme.
- Trying to find good alternatives to traditional events that comply with Covid-19 guidelines, that also include members who might not be in the city at the moment.
- Motivating my fellow board members to implement small changes so we can have a bigger online presence as an association, and helping them in any way they might need during our board year.
- Regarding the study trip, I strive to make it a memorable experience for everyone regardless of the situation, and try to find more/better funding.

Social Coordinator

I am Divya Jalan, I am from India and currently, a second-year international student at the UvA. I'm joining the thirty-third board of SEC for the 2020-21 academic year. I'm very excited to join the board and look forward to working passionately upon everything this position entails as well as working on unprecedented projects to enhance the experience of our members and the legacy of the thirty-third board.

Why this position

I wanted to do this position specifically because being on the SEC Board will polish my leadership, collaborative, social and creative skills. It will also give me the opportunity to meet and interact with all types of individuals, organise creative social activities and have them be as successful as possible despite the current COVID Crisis, motivate and collaborate with members of the committees I will be in-charge of and last but not the most importantly, collaborate with the board despite the fact that I am still abroad. I look forward to also learning Dutch on the job as well as integrating as much internationalization into the association as possible.

Working together with the academic coordinator for events

As mentioned above, I am currently working from India for an unstipulated amount of time due to COVID, travelling issues and fully online classes. I hope to be back as soon as possible. For the time being Nuria - the academic coordinator for SEC this year and I will be in collaboration for the virtual as well as social and academic events so we can involve as many students as possible whether they are in Amsterdam or abroad due to COVID.

COVID - social and virtual events separation this year

As the social coordinator this year and also working from abroad, I think it is imperative to prioritise virtual activities into the social activities realm of SEC this year because of the uncertainty in the present and the future regarding local rules and restrictions as well as involving and including international students living abroad.

New goals and activities for the year

This year, as a part of the internationalization and diversification goals, and as the academic and social coordinators for the board, Nuria and I have decided on introducing many new activities and events. One such event I have in mind is something I want to call the Sociology five senses exhibition wherein Sociology students and the faculty members will collaborate and exhibit different explanations, theories and sociological perspective that can be experienced by the exhibition attendees through their five essential sense organs. We also hope to integrate cultural exchange events wherein members from different backgrounds showcase and/or educate each other about their cultural histories and backgrounds in the form

of food, music, art, fashion etc. Since these and other such planned activities and events will involve sociologists of all levels, it will be a very pleasant opportunity to let everyone socialise with one another and educate each other in as interesting ways as possible.

Committees and leadership roles

Borrel Committee

The committee members and I are going to organise virtual, themed, collaborative and normal borrels as the regulations allow this year.

Party Committee

The party committee will take care of the performance night, end festival, FMG party and prom and another activity. Organizing the end festival means arranging activities, food, location, theme and decoration. We want to organize a prom or another activity with the party committee. Organizing this will look like organizing the performance night or the end festival depends on how the committee will shape the activity. The party committee will also stay in touch with me and other board members so we can organise virtual events such as pub quizzes, online game nights, movie and episodic television show nights among other virtual events. These will be given the same amount of prioritisation as any other in-person event.

External Activities Committee

The external activities committee takes care of the December dinner and the small trip. The interpretation of how these events need to look is up to the committee. The members will organize the activity according to the budget and COVID regulations that need to be followed.

This board year is going to be a very important and unique experience for me, the rest of the board, all our members and the other boards, because we are going to be able to learn, collaborate with each other and encounter experiences above all the current uncertainty and setbacks, caused globally. I am very optimistic about our success.

Divya Jalan, Candidate Social Coordinator 2020-2021

Budget

Business budget of study association SEC, 2020-2021				
Activity	Expenses	Income	Subsidy request	Profit/loss
Member contribution	€ 0,00	€ 2.800,00	€ 0,00	€ 2.800,00
Book sales	€ 0,00	€ 2.000,00	€ 0,00	€ 2.000,00
Acquisition	€ 0,00	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 300,00
CS	€ 20.900,00	€ 17.000,00	€ 2.750,00	-€ 1.150,00
CF	€ 8.775,00	€ 6.100,00	€ 650,00	-€ 2.025,00
Association costs	€ 3.942,50	€ 0,00	€ 2.017,50	-€ 1.925,00
Total	€ 33.617,50	€ 28.200,00	€ 5.417,50	€ 0,00

Academic Activities Committee (CS)				
Activity	Expenses	Income	Subsidy request	Profit/loss
The Other Perspective	€ 200,00	€ 0,00	€ 200,00	€ 0,00
Movie nights*	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 300,00	€ 0,00
Easter lunch*	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 300,00	€ 0,00
Career master activity*	€ 400,00	€ 0,00	€ 400,00	€ 0,00
Company visits*	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 300,00	€ 0,00
Landelijk Sociologie Congres (academic event, might change)	€ 250,00	€ 0,00	€ 250,00	€ 0,00
Small Trip (CEA)	€ 2.700,00	€ 2.000,00	€ 400,00	-€ 300,00
Study trip	€ 16.200,00	€ 15.000,00	€ 600,00	-€ 600,00
Buffer	€ 250,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 250,00
Total	€ 20.900,00	€ 17.000,00	€ 2.750,00	-€ 1.150,00

Committees Parties and Activities (CF)				
Activity	Expenses	Income	Subsidy request	Profit/loss
Introduction weekend	€ 4.100,00	€ 3.700,00	€ 0,00	-€ 400,00
Theme Borrels	€ 200,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 200,00
December Dinner	€ 700,00	€ 250,00	€ 250,00	-€ 200,00
Party 1	€ 700,00	€ 700,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00
CEA activities	€ 600,00	€ 350,00	€ 0,00	-€ 250,00
Prom	€ 900,00	€ 700,00	€ 0,00	-€ 200,00
End of the year festival	€ 1.100,00	€ 400,00	€ 400,00	-€ 300,00
Association room events	€ 75,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 75,00
Open mic night	€ 100,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 100,00
Buffer	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 300,00
Total	€ 8.775,00	€ 6.100,00	€ 650,00	-€ 2.025,00

Association costs				
Activity	Expenses	Income	Subsidy request	Profit/loss
Bank costs	€ 250,00	€ 0,00	€ 250,00	€ 0,00
Transaction costs pin	€ 60,00	€ 0,00	€ 60,00	€ 0,00
Accounting program	€ 220,00	€ 0,00	€ 220,00	€ 0,00
Internationalization	€ 250,00	€ 0,00	€ 250,00	€ 0,00
Landelijk Sociologie Congres	€ 150,00	€ 0,00	€ 150,00	€ 0,00
Office supplies	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 300,00	€ 0,00
Websitehosting	€ 125,00	€ 0,00	€ 125,00	€ 0,00
Association representation	€ 600,00	€ 0,00	€ 300,00	-€ 300,00
Trainings	€ 100,00	€ 0,00	€ 100,00	€ 0,00
Board sweaters	€ 100,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 100,00
Membership ASVA	€ 12,50	€ 0,00	€ 12,50	€ 0,00
CLU's (commissieledenluitjes)	€ 800,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 800,00
Contribution FV-FMG	€ 100,00	€ 0,00	€ 100,00	€ 0,00
ALV's (General Assembly)	€ 150,00	€ 0,00	€ 150,00	€ 0,00
Constitutionborrel	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 300,00
Board costs	€ 125,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 125,00
Board transfer	€ 100,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 100,00
Buffer	€ 200,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	-€ 200,00
Total	€ 3.942,50	€ 0,00	€ 2.017,50	-€ 1.925,00