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EANS survey 2018

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In the beginning of 2019, the EANS Board conducted an online survey of all members. The aim of the survey was for the EANS Board to get a broader sense of what EANS members want the organisation to become and to work with, and the results of the survey will guide the future development of the organization. Members were asked 14 questions, including type of member, country of employment), whether they had participated in a Scientific Meeting or Summer Conference at least once in the last five years, and an open question with the possibility to give reasons for attending/not attending. The survey also question where respondents were asked to what degree they thought that EANS should work more externally, internally, provide more post-doctoral support and promote post-doctoral collaboration, and promote collaboration among members. These questions were all followed by open questions where respondents could give example of how this could be done. The last question of the survey was also an open question where the respondents had the possibility to write anything that they thought would like to be developed in EANS. The survey was discussed on a meeting with board members the 22nd of January in Birmingham, and the survey was presented orally at the General Annual 2019. The attendees expressed a wish for a written summary, which is the reason for this document.

Summary of results

Two third of the respondents (n=164) were Full Members/Fellows and 1/3 were Student Members. The top countries which were represented by most students were Switzerland, The Netherlands (both n=6), Denmark, Spain, Sweden and the UK (all n=5) and for Full Members/Fellows the UK (n=16), Norway (n=11), Spain and The Netherlands (both n=9). A vast majority had participated in a Scientific Meeting or Summer Conference at least once in the last five years (81 % for the total sample and for students and Full Members/Fellows respectively). The respondents thought, on a five point Likert scale (1=Do not agree at all, and 5=Agree to high extent) that EANS should work more externally (md 4.0, q₁-q₃: 3.0-4.0), should work more internally (md 4.0, q₁-q₃: 3.0-4.0), should provide more post doctoral support and promote post doctoral collaboration (md 4.0, q₁-q₃: 3.3-5.0), and should promote

collaboration among members to a higher extent (md 4.0, q₁-q₃: 3.0-5.0). There was no significant differences between the two groups regarding internally work. There were significant differences between Students and Full Members/Fellows for external work (3.0, q₁-q₃: 3.0-4.0 vs. 4.0, q₁-q₃: 3.0-4.0, p=0.040), post-doctoral support and promote post-doctoral collaboration (4.0, q₁-q₃: 3.0-5.0 vs. 5.0, q₁-q₃: 4.0-5.0, p<0.001), and collaboration among members (4.0, q₁-q₃: 3.0-5.0 vs. 4.0, q₁-q₃: 4.0-5.0, p=0.029). The conclusion is that the members thought that all areas that were asked about, that is internal- and external work, collaboration and postdoc support, should be prioritized. Full Members/Fellows thought that EANS should work more externally, but at the same time, promote collaboration to a higher extent.

All respondents provide answers on the open questions. The answers are difficult to analyse, but the board had a meeting where five of the board members met and discussed the answers and interpretation of these. They discussed the need for a strategy or a vision for EANS so that it is clear what EANS want and what to achieve, because everything cannot be done and not at the same time. The survey resulted in a wide range of suggestions and comments to these questions and the board has used these as ideas how things could be done rather than how things should be done. Some opinions were recurrent, and it is clear that the main purpose for the members that networking and collaboration is key elements in EANS. The Summer School is a key element and it is important that this continue to be organised by different countries. The demand on the host and the coordinator are high and it would be good to have a co-coordinator. The conferences and the meetings are important activities to achieve this, and it is important that these have a high standard so that they will attract members and other researchers. Many respondents have asked about some kind of collaboration in special topics. Special Interest Groups might be one way to achieve this. These groups might be accompanied by a website that is more interactive with forums that could announce online meetings, discussions and so forth. The respondents wanted EANS to be more visible on the European research arena, and ways to do this could be writing editorials and positions papers of what EANS has achieved and what we want to achieve. We talked about different ways to achieve this, for example that members uses and acknowledge EANS to a higher extent, for example to outline EANS in article credentials our invite EANS in different kind of national policy work. Finally, many ask for more support for early career researchers and would like to see a fourth Summer School year or a special SIG/network for those that have finished the Summer School and have finished their PhD. As the workload for Board Members and

Members may increase, the possibility for the Board Members to be responsible for special areas was discussed, for example social media/PR, promoting collaboration.

The board will continue to analyse and to discuss the surveys' results, and will try to implement measures, which will hopefully be visible to the Members.

Thank you for your participation!