



EACES Newsletter

No. 96 – January 2025

In this issue:

Contents	Page
1. Official news	2
1.1 Message from the president	2
1.2 EACES General Assembly Meeting minutes	3
a) Presidential Report	3
b) Financial Report	3
c) Approval of the actions (discharge) of the managing board	4
d) Elections	4
<u>Management board</u>	4
<u>Further members of the executive board</u>	4
e) Other Issues	5
2. Calls for papers and other information	5
2.1 17 th Joint IOS/APB/EACES Summer Academy (30 June-2 July 2025)	5
2.2 19 th EACES Conference	5

1. Official news

1.1 Message from the president

Dear members of EACES:

With some delay, I am writing to introduce the first 2025 issue of our newsletter.

The start of 2025 has been so far characterized by an acceleration in the process of geo-economic fragmentation witnessed since 2008, which was at the center of discussions during the latest EACES Conference in Belgrade, accompanied by the deterioration of democratic national institutions inside many countries, with more extreme and nationalist forces gaining substantial ground.

This process is now clearly threatening the existence and effectiveness of multilateral international organizations designed to further sustainable development goals, promote international cooperation in key areas, encourage the peaceful settlements of international disputes, and enforce international law. This is extremely worrisome, at a time in which mankind is facing both an increase in military conflicts and epochal challenges which would instead require more coordination and cooperation.

Europe is in the middle of this “perfect storm”. Economic, social and political instability have been spreading across the continent. The war in Ukraine, started with the Russian aggression of Ukraine in February 2022, is still ongoing, with its economic, environmental and – above all – human costs reaching new, dramatic, heights. With the United States increasingly focused on their internal issues, and on their national agenda, and all major world powers flexing their muscles, it is becoming increasingly clear that Europe needs to redefine its institutional setup and its socio-economic and geopolitical

strategies, if it is to overcome the challenges it faces.

Now, more than ever, it is vital that Europeans cooperate closely among themselves and with other willing parties around the world to strengthen and improve existing national and international institutions and to keep multilateralism and international cooperation alive and focused on identifying the most effective ways to overcome common challenges.

EACES, due to its intellectual capital and to its international memberships that spans across and beyond European borders, can play a key role in these troubled times, for Europe and for the world. We can do that together, as we work to revitalize the Association, and to increase the opportunities of interaction and cooperation among EACES members and with other Associations, in Europe and across the globe.

The Management Board and the Executive Board of EACES will be actively working in all these directions, and we hope you will all be willing and able to support us in our efforts. We will strive to communicate more frequently and effectively and we invite you to reach out to us, sharing your ideas and suggestions.

Below you will find the minutes of the General Assembly held in Belgrade, during the 18th EACES conference, as well as announcements of the upcoming initiatives sponsored by EACES, including some preliminary information about the next EACES conference (the 19th) that is expected to take place in Barcelona, Spain, from the 16th to the 18th of July 2026. I remind you that EACES is happy to disseminate information about workshops, conferences and other academic and policy events connected to comparative economic studies, and that such events could be sponsored by EACES with a

financial contribution of up to 800 € (compatibly with the financial resources available). I encourage you to approach me or any member of the Management Board, in case you organize such events.

I hope that the year 2025 started well for you and I wish you all the best for the months to come!

Norberto

1.2 EACES General Assembly Meeting minutes

The general assembly of the European Association of Comparative Economic Studies (EACES) took place on Friday, 13 September 2024 from 3.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the University of Economics and Business, Belgrade, Serbia. The agenda of the General Assembly was the following:

- a) Presidential Report
- b) Financial Report
- c) Approval of the actions (discharge) of the managing board
- d) Elections
- e) Other issues

About 40 members of the Association were present.

a) Presidential Report

The president Hartmut Lehmann (HL) welcomed the members. He reported on a rather turbulent recent past of the association, namely:

- the consequences of the Covid pandemic that necessitated the shift of the 2020 conference planned in Naples to 2022 (with an online conference organized at IOS/University of Regensburg in 2021);
- the Russian aggression against Ukraine starting in February 2022, which was vigorously condemned by the then existing management board (Hartmut

Lehmann, Francesco Pastore, Kseniia Gatskova, and Jürgen Jerger).

- the premature and unexpected death of (then vice-president) Francesco Pastore in July 2022 shortly before the conference that resulted in an unplanned second term of office for him;
- the unexpected withdrawal of Sonja Avlijas (SA) from her candidacy for the office of the EACES president in today's election which she announced to the rest of the management board on 30 July 2024. HL also
- suggested that it would be important to think (again) of a journal managed directly by EACES in order to increase the Association's standing;
- informed the members that a Russian sociologist who co-authored one of the papers presented at the Belgrade conference had recently been imprisoned by the Russian authorities. EACES is hoping for his release. A short discussion resulted in the decision not to have any official public statement from EACES since this could put Russian EACES members into personal danger.
- thanked SA for the organization of the conference and – more generally – her service to EACES, and declared to be very sorry that she had decided to withdraw from her candidacy for EACES president.

b) Financial Report

Jürgen Jerger (JJ) reported on the financial situation of EACES. Before presenting the relevant numbers, he informed the members that

- the only asset is a bank account at HVB/Unicredit Regensburg to which he is the only person to have access to – which he does not find desirable;

- he had to discontinue the Paypal payment option due to its dysfunctionality;
- as a result of the necessary tax return, he received the Freistellungsbescheid (confirmation that EACES is tax exempt and recognized as a charitable organization for the promotion of science and research) dated 18 April 2024;
- EACES should have a German speaking officer who is able to deal with the formalities as long as EACES is registered in Germany;
- the overall financial situation is rather sound and he therefore recommends to keep fees unchanged until the 2026 conference.

JJ then presented the relevant numbers on EACES revenues and expenditures that lead to a net wealth of 17.056,24 € as of 10 September 2024. He also stated that – although a couple of payments still had to be carried out – in contrast to past conferences the 2024 conference would just break even and therefore not contribute to the financing of other EACES activities.

c) Approval of the actions (discharge) of the managing board

The president, HL, first asked the members whether they prefer an open vote by raising hands or a secret vote on ballot paper. An open vote was unanimously endorsed.

He then asked to vote on the approval (discharge) of the managing board. The assembly unanimously approved.

d) Elections

HL again first asked the members whether they prefer an open vote for the candidates of the management board and the other members of the executive board by raising hands or a secret vote on ballot paper. An open vote was unanimously endorsed.

Management board

Due to the withdrawal of SA (see item 1 of the agenda), the rest of the management board intensively tried to find a slate of appropriate candidates in relatively short time. These efforts lead to the following list of new candidates: for president, Norberto Pignatti (NP); for vicepresident, Vahagn Jerbashia (VJ); for secretary, Karine Torosyan (KT)

JJ announced to be willing to run again for the office of the treasurer well before this reshuffling was necessary.

Due to the unusual circumstances, VJ and KT were not able to personally participate in the GA, but declared beforehand both their willingness to run for the respective office and accept it if elected. NP briefly introduced the CVs of the candidates to the GA.

The elections were held separately for each of the positions and lead to the following result:

- President: Norberto Pignatti
- Vice-President: Vahagn Jerbashian
- Secretary: Karine Torosyan
- Treasurer: Jürgen Jerger

All votes were unanimous.

Further members of the executive board

HL stated that he asked all incumbent further members the EB whether they are willing to run for and accept – if elected – another term of office. Michael Keren and Urmas Varblane both asked to be replaced by younger colleagues, whereas all the other incumbents declared their willingness to continue their service. Since the present slate of further officers was one person short of the nine posts mentioned in the statutes, three new candidates were necessary. Hartmut Lehmann (outgoing president), Jaan Masso and Olga Popova volunteered.

Elections of the present EB board members on the continuation were held in one go for Beata Farkas, Vladimir Gimpelson, David M. Kemme, Satoshi Mizobata, Martin Myant and Andrei Yakovlev. The positive vote was unanimous.

Elections for Hartmut Lehmann, Jaan Masso and Olga Popova were held separately. All votes approved the candidates by unanimity.

e) Other Issues

David Kemme proposed to officially thank Hartmut Lehmann for his long and impactful service to the Association through difficult times. The Assembly applauded the outgoing president. The meeting closed at 5 p.m.

2. Calls for papers and other information

2.1 17th Joint IOS/APB/EACES Summer Academy (30 June-2 July 2025)

The 17th Joint IOS/APB/EACES Summer Academy on Central and Eastern Europe organized by the Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS Regensburg) in cooperation with the Akademie für Politische Bildung, Tutzing (APB) and the European Association for Comparative Economic Studies (EACES) will be held from the 30th of June to the 2nd of July in Tutzing, Lake Starnberg, Germany.

The organizers welcome submissions from junior scholars (Ph.D. students and Postdocs) in economics, economic history, sociology, and political economy, and are especially interested in contributions that demonstrate how history impacts economies' resilience against shocks and in papers carrying a policy message disproving the common perception that history's importance leaves no room for policy. Topics may include, though are not limited to:

- Historical, institutional, and cultural origins of differences in comparative economic development
 - Understanding how and why past events matter for contemporary policies, outcomes, and behavior
 - The long-term perspectives on improving the design and effectiveness of economic policies
- Preference will be given to papers focusing on Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and post-Soviet countries.

IOS/APB/EACES Summer Academies on Central and Eastern Europe aim to bring together Ph.D. students and Postdocs in a workshop atmosphere. The workshop language is English. The Hans Raupach Award will honor the author(s) of a paper of exceptional merit. Further information on the program and past summer academies is available at: <https://leibniz-ios.de/en/knowledge-transfer/events/summer-academy> The conference fee is 80 € (including single room accommodation for two nights and all meals). Presenters are expected to cover their travel costs themselves.

[Here you can find the full text of the call for papers.](#)

2.2 19th EACES Conference

The 19th EACES Conference is expected to take place in Barcelona, Spain, from the 16th to the 18th of July 2026, at the University of Barcelona. Please, mark your calendars and feel free to share this information with your contacts! We will be providing additional information about the conference as soon as it becomes available.