



European Same Sex Dance Association

# Annual report August 2018 – July 2019

ESSDA AGM 13 July 2019

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# 1 ESSDA board and elections

At the 2018 AGM in Paris were

- ongoing position :
  - o Patrice Naudier (FR)
  - o Davy Brocatus (BE)
  - o Kai André Lillebø (NO)
  - o Heather Gladding (UK)
  - o Marc Schleuter (DE)
  - o Michal Vanicek (CZ)
- standing for re-election :
  - o Diana Vinke (NL)
  - o PJ (Trix) Macleod (UK)
- standing for election :
  - o Kerstin Kallmann (GER)
  - o Piia Korpi (FIN)
  - o Peter Meager (UK)

Were elected : Piia Korpi, PJ Macleod, Peter Meager.

Marc Schleuter (DE) resigned from his Treasurer and webmaster and board member positions during the first board meeting.

The following roles and positions were divided between the board members for 2018-2019 as follows:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Piia Korpi (FIN) Female Co-President   | 5. Peter Meager (UK) Public Relations       |
| 2. Patrice Naudier (FR) Male Co-President | 6. Michal Vanicek (CZ) Outreach             |
| 3. Kai Andre Lillebo (NO) Secretary       | 7. Trix Macleod (UK) Marketing              |
| 4. Davy Brocatus (BE) Treasurer           | 8. Heather Gladding (UK) Membership Officer |

All eight remaining board positions were filled. The Board decided that there was no need to co-opt a ninth Member so far.

Heather Gladding (UK) resigned from her Membership Officer and board member positions on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2019. The Membership Officer position has been taken over by Davy Brocatus.

This year the board had mostly conference call meetings and two live meetings, one after the Nordic Open in Helsinki, on 31<sup>st</sup> December and the second in Paris after the RDV de Paris, on 19<sup>th</sup> May. The Helsinki meeting was the opportunity to meet a representative of EGLF about the organization of EuroGames 2019.

## 2 Trans inclusion research project

### *A PJ (Trix) Macleod's study*



This project aims to explore what ESSDA can do to improve trans and non-binary participation in - and experiences of - same-sex competitive dance. It will also explore what assistance ESSDA can provide to competition organisers in this regard.

The methodology, risk analysis and ethics assessment has been completed and we will begin recruiting participants at the AGM in Rome.

For anyone who (a) does not identify with the same gender they were assigned at birth OR (b) is a competition organiser, we would appreciate your input. Participation will involve in a short Skype interview in the autumn of 2019 at a time convenient to you. Please alert PJ (Trix) at the AGM - or beforehand - if you are able and willing to take part.

### 3 ESSDA Members' and Non-Members' Surveys 2018



A huge thank you to the 16 members and 20 non-members who responded to these surveys.

#### General ESSDA

Most members felt that the main activities of ESSDA should be to help establish same sex dance organisations in European countries not currently active (94%) and to govern the European Championships (81%).

It was also noted that

- (a) ESSDA's broader vision and target audience may need further definition,
- (b) that ESSDA may wish to add 'ensuring adjudicator quality' to its remit,
- (c) that a move away from 'same-sex dancing' as a term should be considered.

By far the thing that non-members enjoyed most about the same-sex dance community at large was its atmosphere of fun, friendship and equality (13 people). The thing they liked most about ESSDA specifically was its collaboration across Europe on events and competitions (nine people).

#### Showdance events

Members unanimously thought that registration fees for showdance teams should be reduced. For showdance couples, people wanted to

- (a) include 'entertainment factor' in judging criteria,
- (b) have more transparency with results, and
- (c) have clearer rules.

#### Communications

Two-thirds of members stay up to date via the ESSDA website. All respondents agreed that the ESSDA website should host news updates and competition info and results. It was mentioned that AGM information should be published on the website. In addition, many people wished to see functionality to facilitate online payment of membership fees, as well as a partner-search function. It was also suggested that we consider getting a new website. Fewest people wished to see a community chat page or an online shop. Two-thirds of members said they follow ESSDA on Facebook. It was also mentioned however that

- (a) we may wish to prioritise website over social media due to accessibility issues and
- (b) that being kept up to date more via email, eg. via a quarterly newsletter, may be useful.

#### Outreach

Members felt that subsidising competitions for dancers with low income was the most important task for ESSDA's outreach function. Providing financial support for setting up same sex dance organizations in under-represented European countries was also thought to be an important task. It was mentioned that organising hosts should provide outreach, with ESSDA's role restricted to supporting them in this - eg. via an outreach support booklet and making the newbie booklet available to download.

#### Membership and Community-Building

In order to build the same-sex dance community, four non-members felt ESSDA should get feedback from countries we don't usually hear from and organise more events there. To encourage membership, three non-members suggested that ESSDA share more about the benefits of membership or create more benefits if necessary. Most members felt that discounted competition entry fees (80%), and potentially also discounted accommodation (54%) would be good membership incentives. It was also noted that

- (a) community-building benefits may be desired and that
- (b) further benefits for national and local associations should be considered.



## 4 Gay Games 10 Paris 2018 and IFSSDA 3<sup>rd</sup> World Championships



The Gay Games 10 Paris 2018 and 3<sup>rd</sup> IFSSDA World Championships were very successful and positive with respect to numbers, crowd, financially and outcome: 350 registered couples, 20 showdance couples and 6 formation teams. The event included same-sex and mixed couples, showdance couples and teams, argentine Tango and Handidance competitions.

## 5 EuroGames 2019 Roma



ESSDA Board decided on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 not to pursue the possibility of a European Championship as part of Eurogames Roma 2019.

ESSDA spent a considerable amount of time conversing with Team Roma to try to find a mutual agreement for the European Championships. In order to ease communication with Team Roma, the Board asked one of its members, Davide DiPrete, to serve as translator.

Davide spared no effort to explain to Team Roma all the constraints involved in organizing a competition such as the European Championships. This personal investment was recognized by Team Roma, who included him... before excluding him after the ESSDA decision

Communication with Team Roma proved to be very difficult due to language barriers, the lack of experience in organizing a EuroGames/European Championship dancesport competition, confusion about the amount of the ESSDA license fees (2.000 €) and the remuneration of judges and officials, the number of potential registrants, the size and number of dancing halls... All this contributed to them not budgeting properly.

Although the Parties finally had a fully complying agreement between both parties, ESSDA Board was still extremely concerned at the low level of information and of registrations for the Eurogames as a whole (not just Dance sport), and the absence of any form of financial backing/sponsorship allowing Team Roma to finance the level of cost involved with hosting a European Championship.

The European Championships has a high price, and so does the reputation of ESSDA in respect of the professionalism and commitment it holds to ensuring the desired outcome of such a prestigious Championship within our competition calendar.

The Board felt it prudent first to invite our community to wait for further information from Roma before registering and finally to request Team Roma held its own dance competition (without the European Championship attached) to help reduce costs and increase the likelihood of establishing enough registrants to fulfill a successful competition.

With recent scars of the financial fallibilities of International Multi-Sport events ESSDA has to be 100% sure that this competition was viable to protect both ESSDA's reputation as well as the finances of its members and the wider competitive dance community. An assurance ESSDA was never able to achieve from Team Roma.

The Board repeatedly offered its help to both the EGLSF and Team Roma to deliver a dance competition for 2019 and is happy that they managed to organize a successful competition which is also the opportunity to host ESSDA's AGM.





## 6 ESSDA European Championships 2020 Düsseldorf

Negotiations are in process with Dusseldorf to have the European Same-Sex Dance Championship. The host club has received the draft License and Partnership Agreement



## 7 ESSDA European Championships and Eurogames 2021 Copenhagen

The dance sport competition will be organized by Pandans which organizes the Nordic Open in association with Norway (NOSSDA) and Finland (Vantaan Kilpatanssijat ry and Sateenkaaritanssijat ry – Rainbow Dancers Finland)



## 8 ESSDA European Championships and Eurogames 2022 Nijmegen

A first contact has been taken with the Eurogames Team and should be confirmed with a conference call. Note that should there be a European Championships in Nijmegen in 2022 this will be the same year as the GayGames 11 Hong-Kong 2022.



## 9 IFSSDA

In the prospect of Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022, taking place outside the geographical area of competencies of the IFSSDA founding members, ESSDA, NASSPDA and IAGLCWDC are in close contact in order to reach agreements on the following issues:



- Update the GayGames Red Book: the three organizations have made their comments and a final version is circulating for approval;
- Forming a Joined Committee with a special task in accordance to paragraph 17 on page 10 of IFSSDA's Constitution. This committee shall be preparing a draft of Competition Rules to be adhered to at any World Championship sanctioned by IFSSDA. A draft is circulating for approval.
- Joint rules for IFSSDA. ESSDA is to provide the first draft.



Armin Lohrmann (FGG) is also taking part in these joint conversations to keep the FGG up to date on where we are at for 2022.

