



European Same-Sex Dance Association

Annual Report July 2017 – June 2018

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1 The board after elections

At the 2017 AGM in Berlin re-elected: Davy Brocatus, Michal Vanicek, Marc Schleuter and elected new on the board: Heather Gladding, Kai Andre Lillebo and Patrice Naudier.

The following roles and positions divided between the board members for 2017-2018:

Diana Vinke (NL)	Female Co-President
Davy Brocatus (BE)	Male Co-President
Marc Schleuter (DE)	Treasurer + Webmaster
Heather Gladding (ISL+UK)	General Secretary
Michal Vanicek (CZ)	Outreach
Chrisi Lyons (UK)	Membership Officer
Trix Macleod (UK)	Marketing
Patrice Naudier (FR)	General Board Member
Kai Andre Lillebo (NO)	General Board Member

All nine board positions were filled. The Secretary resigned from this position after the third meeting due to personal circumstances but remained a general board member. The Membership officer was not available anymore for work related to this position after the third meeting.

This year the board had three Skype meetings and one meeting in person, after the Pink Jukebox Trophy in London, in February. The Skype meeting in December was Team Building.

2 European Championships 2017 – Berlin

The 2017 European Championships (licensed by ESSDA) were held apart from EuroGames and organised by Pink Ballroom Berlin. At the same time ESSDA celebrated its 10th anniversary along a very nice exhibition created by Berlin with pictures of same-sex dancing collected over the years.

The EC 2017 were very successful and positive with respect to numbers, crowd, financially and outcome: 300 registered competitors, 227 couples and groups and 14 EC Titles. Financially it was challenging for the host organiser but they managed this by the attractiveness of Berlin, grants from DVET and ESSDA for starters and sponsoring. ESSDA had also lowered the license fee by €500,-

ESSDA thanks the organisation on behalf of all same-sex dancers to host this nice and successful European Same-Sex Dance Championships.

3 World Championships 2018 - Gay Games X Paris

The World Championships 2018 – Gay Games X Paris has been a discussion topic at all (board) meetings. In addition, the high registration fees for Gay Games X in Paris were discussed, resulting in a letter addressing this issue that was sent to Federation of Gay Games (FGG).

In last year's Annual Report it was already briefly touched upon that Paris 2018 and ESSDA could not come to an agreement with respect to the License and Partnership Agreement that ESSDA has used for years for European / World Championships. Since we had not communicated with our members about this for quite a while, ESSDA's female co-president Diana Vinke posted a letter on the ESSDA Facebook page.

This letter, for the larger part included here, was intended to share with our members and the same-sex dance community how long and far from easy this whole process has been so there is a fuller picture of this new situation. The License and Partnership Agreement comes with a fee to cover for the expenses that need to be made: an on-site visit, certificates, trophies and if possible a welcome drink for the officials on the evening prior to the competition. In return, the host organiser gets full

ESSDA support in the whole process. The license part of the agreement also allows for demanding particular requirements, for example enabling the invitation of adjudicators of the highest calibre.

The process already started with a first meeting between ESSDA and Paris 2018 at the EuroGames in Helsinki. After several other meetings that aimed for reaching consensus, Paris 2018 was offered the opportunity to indicate what they did not agree with in the License and Partnership agreement. The modifications they proposed gave no room for (financial) negotiation and put ESSDA in the position of a partner at the same level, which is not our role: we do not run dance competitions but provide organisers with all the support they need to run their competition and see to it that the competition rules are complied with.

Since Paris 2018 wanted to run the World Championships for dancing, ESSDA board decided to give Paris two options: either get ESSDA's full support in the whole process under the License and Partnership agreement that comes with a negotiable fee or 'go it alone' with ESSDA's main responsibility to see if the competition rules are observed but also with the offer to answer any questions or give advice when requested. Paris 2018 chose the second option and were pleased that ESSDA had faith in their ability to do this.

As ESSDA was the executing partner for IFSSDA for the World Championships, but for the first time without a signed partnership and licence agreement, this was a new situation for all parties involved. For quite a long time we did not receive any information or questions, possibly because we had not been clear enough in our explanation of what the 'go it alone' option meant. Because we wanted to give Paris 2018 / Rainbow Evidanse the freedom to organise the competition independently we did not push them for this, which means that we could not get involved even though we were and still are willing to give advice when asked for.

Only at our most recent board meeting did we receive the list of officials and the number of registered participants. We asked some basic questions to check if the requirements for complying with the competition rules were met and some of the questions were left (partly) unanswered. Following on this, in order to be able to execute our sanctioning role with respect to the World Championships, as the European hand of IFSSDA, we requested Paris 2018 to invite one of the co-presidents as an official who can oversee the competition and give the chair of adjudicators and the scrutineers advice should this be needed. As a response to this request, ESSDA's male-co-president Davy Brocatus was invited.

The officials required for a large competition like Paris 2018 are in place, with an international adjudicator panel. The number of registered participants has gone up to around 350 and the participants who applied for financial support have all been granted a fully funded scholarship. So all the ingredients for a great dance competition are there.

4 European Championships 2019 - EuroGames Rome

ESSDA first contacted EGSLF, who licensed Rome as the organising for the EuroGames 2019. Rome assigned a person in charge of sports as per March 2018. Dates are 12 and 13 July 2019. Negotiations are in process to have the European Same-Sex Dance Championship in addition to the EuroGames 2019.

5 Booklet for New Competitors

Trix wrote and designed a 20-page resource for dancers considering entering their first competition.

The booklet is intended to provide key information that may be obvious for seasoned competitors, yet unclear for newbies. It includes guidance on everything from how to find a partner through preparing and entering a competition, to what to expect on the day. It also featured tips from new competitors over the last two years. It is hoped that this resource will help ease any fears or uncertainties that might otherwise prevent people from entering their first competition.

Proofreading and editing assistance was provided by several UKSSDC members, and final copy was proofread again and signed off by ESSDA's female co-president. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who helped with editing, as well as those who shared their experiences and photos.

The booklet has now been launched online and can be found on the ESSDA website on the download page: <http://essda.eu/downloads/>

Hard copies will be available at the 2018 ESSDA AGM in August, free of charge.

6 IFSSDA

The world umbrella organisation IFSSDA (International Federation of Same Sex Dance Associations) was started in 2011. The Constitution had been agreed on by the three founding organisations. The Bylaws still need to be finalized. As it is very difficult for the founding members (NASSPDA – IAGLCWDC – ESSDA) to meet, moving forward is a challenge. This needs to be planned in the upcoming year, especially because the FGG decided to host Gay Games XI in Hong Kong in 2022. With a location such as Hong Kong it is not that clear which of the eligible IFSSDA partners – NASSPDA or ESSDA - is the 'closest continental body' that will sanction the Same Sex World Championships 2022.

7 The Future (tasks) of ESSDA

What is the role of ESSDA: are we a supporting, liaising, marketing and / or sanctioning body? This was discussed within the board at the Team Building in December and how to define actions and tasks that contribute to this. This topic will also be on the agenda of the AGM.

For next year and beyond, topics such as the ones below have been proposed (some from the previous AGM and some new ones proposed by board members):

- Gender Identity in communication, Constitution and Competition Rules
- Specifying 'formation' aspect in Showdance Guidelines for Groups
- Developing a support tool for competition organisers to compose a diverse and balanced panel of qualified adjudicators, e.g. in terms of background, country, gender, experience, number of big competitions judged in a particular timeframe
- Champions Gallery and Ranking tool on ESSDA website
- Grand Slam (Yes or no to be continued)
- Evaluation Age Category
- Outreach support for competition organisers, e.g. ways and means of funding outreach
- Payment system that makes money transfers from non-euro countries less expensive
- Reviewing Competition Rules, Bylaws and Competition Rules on accuracy / adequacy of the wording

20 July 2018

Davy Brocatus, Co-President ESSDA

With contributions from Trix Macleod, Marketing Officer and Diana Vinke, Co-President