



*European Same-Sex Dance Association*

## **Annual Report July 2016 – June 2017 by the Secretary**

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## 1. The board and (re-)elections

At the 2016 AGM Hadass Armon was re-elected for one year and Diana Vinke for a two-year term. Chrisi Lyons and Trix Macleod, who joined the board after the 2015 AGM, were officially elected for a two-year term. No new candidates had stepped forward for election. This means that in 2016 – 2017 the board was composed of eight members with the following roles and positions:

Hadass Armon (IL)	Female Co-President
Davy Brocatus (BE)	Male Co-President
Diana Vinke (NL)	General Secretary & Treasurer Proxy Membership Officer
Michal Vaníček (CZ)	Outreach
Sören Stauffer-Kruse (UK)	General Board Member
Chrisi Lyons (UK)	Membership Officer Proxy Secretary
Trix Macleod (UK)	PR & Marketing
Marc Schleuter (DE)	Webmaster Proxy Treasurer

Chrisi Lyons, Trix Macleod and Diana Vinke are halfway their two-year term.

**Hadass Armon, Davy Brocatus, Michal Vaníček** and **Marc Schleuter** stand for re-election.

Sören Stauffer-Kruse has decided not to stand for re-election.

At the time of writing this annual report three new candidates stand for election: **Heather Gladding**, **Kai André Lillebø** and **Patrice Naudier**.

The maximum number of board members is nine, of which six positions are available. With seven candidates (four current board members who stand for re-election and three new candidates) this means that a formal election needs to be organised. At the first board meeting after the 2017 AGM the board members will decide on the various positions and roles.

## 2. Celebration of ESSDA's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and of same-sex dancing

The EC 2017 Berlin team and ESSDA joined forces to combine the celebration of same-sex dancing with ESSDA's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Berlin created a photo exhibition and catalogue, with "Same-sex dancing today – moments" as its theme. The opening of the photo exhibition and ESSDA's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated at a VIP-event, for which (representatives of) paid-up ESSDA members are going to be invited.

Another joint initiative between DVET and ESSDA is to offer a grant of €10 to starters in same-sex competitive dancing and to showdance-only team-dancers.

Other ESSDA activities to celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary include the organisation of a Grand Slam, an invitation to all ESSDA members to mail suggestions for a new ESSDA slogan (the current slogan is "taking same-sex dancing into the future"), a request to all ESSDA members for same-sex dance pictures from the last 10 years, which we can display on our website, and the proposal to the Berlin team to include "10 years of ESSDA" in the inscription on the medals.

The Grand Slam involves four categories: Latin Female and Male, and Standard Female and Male. Combined results are calculated, based on participation in at least three out of four competitions: The Pink Jukebox Trophy in London, Le Rendez-vous de Paris, the German Open Championships in Fürth and the European Championships 2017 in Berlin. The winners will be announced at the Gala ball of the EC Berlin, on Saturday 29 July.

At the time of writing this annual report no suggestions for a new ESSDA slogan and no same-sex dance pictures had been received.

The Berlin team has supported the idea of mentioning “10 years of ESSDA” on the EC 2017 Berlin medals.

### **3. EC 2017 in Berlin and GayGames 2018 in Paris**

Hadass has been the liaising partner for the Berlin team to support the preparation and organisation of the European Championships 2017. Their first face-to-face meeting was in the spring of 2016. In the spring of 2017 Hadass paid an on-site visit to Berlin. Diana joined her to gain experience with providing this kind of support to host organisers of championships. The Berlin team already had much experience with organising a large dance competition and used this experience for the organisation of the EC 2017. Due to Berlin’s experience, the nature of ESSDA’s support has somewhat shifted. The Berlin team also introduced an element that is typical of competitions in Germany: the winning couple of a class is offered the option to compete in the class above. For roles such as the scrutineer, MC and DJ, several people are involved, which means that in the course of the championships changes may occur in who performs these roles. Hadass had slight concerns about this - which she shared with the Berlin team - because of the continuity and building experience across competition days. After the EC 2017 this somewhat different way of running championships will be evaluated so future host organisers and ESSDA can learn from this experience.

Davy has been the liaising partner for the dance competition in Paris in 2018, as part of the GayGames. He had a first face-to-face meeting at the EuroGames in Helsinki. As explained at the 2016 AGM in Helsinki (also see the AGM 2016 minutes and topic 4 below), the FGG issued an official statement that annual Championships are allowed to be held at Gay Games only if doing so does not require any additional fees or memberships for either the participant or the host city. At the AGM 2016 it was also explained that NASSPDA and ESSDA, two founding partners of IFSSDA, have different views on what is needed to run a well-organised and high-quality same-sex dance competition. NASSPDA does not agree with the license fee that ESSDA asks for the expenses that come with supporting a host organisation and does not fully support ESSDA’s view that adjudicators should get a fee.

The communication with Paris became complicated because various parties were involved: not only the host organiser (Rainbow Evidanse) but also FGG and NASSPDA (the Sports Committee of the FGG asked the NASSPDA president to be the Dancesport Consultant for the GayGames in Paris), and at some point also IAGLCWDC, the third IFSSDA partner. It took the ESSDA board some time and several discussions at our board meetings to unravel this and to determine our role and position. This resulted in a mail to FGG and Rainbow Evidanse in the first half of June, in which they were offered a choice between two options:

(1) FGG grants Rainbow Evidanse the organising and running of the Dance Sport event of GG Paris 2018 and IFSSDA will provide the logo and some basic help, and hand out the certificates; in this option Rainbow Evidanse will be responsible for building and running the competition, and providing certificates (and trophies, the costs of which will be covered by the organiser).

(2) FGG grants Rainbow Evidanse the organising and running of the Dance Sport event of GG Paris 2018, with the full support of ESSDA, as the representative of IFSSDA; this option comes with a license fee, which covers the trophies and other expenses that allow the standard of competition to be maintained.

FGG and Rainbow Evidanse have been asked to let us know their decision by 10 July.

#### **4. Same-sex dance championships as part of multi-sports events**

The (late) cancellation of nearly all sports events of the OutGames in Miami triggered a discussion on the ESSDA Facebook page about whether or not same-sex dance European / World Championships should be part of larger multi-sports events such as EuroGames, GayGames and OutGames. About a year ago the ESSDA board had a similar discussion (see topic 7 in Annual Report 2015-2016): what are reasons for (not) having same-sex dance championships as part of these larger events? What are the implications of either choice? Since this topic also relates to ESSDA's position and role in the GayGames 2018 dance event (see topic 3 above), the ESSDA board had an extra meeting early June. A first thought was to create a short survey to see how our members and competitors of the EC 2017 feel about it. But after discussing this it became clear that we did not know yet what specific questions should be asked. So it was decided to explore this topic first with our members at the AGM in Berlin and to use this as input for creating a short survey.

#### **5. Gender identity in constitution, bylaws and competition rules**

The concept of 'gender' has occurred as a discussion topic at several board meetings. Several perspectives were discussed: how the concept of gender identity has been shifting lately, what this might mean for 'same-sex' dance competitions and to what extent the topics in the competition rules and/or constitution that mention gender identity have been written in a respectful way. The latter will be checked and, if necessary, amendments will be proposed at the 2017 AGM in Berlin.

#### **6. Evaluation of the senior age category**

After evaluating the change of the minimum age for the senior age category at the AGM in Helsinki (from 35 to 40 years, with a minimum combined age of both dance partners of 90 years) it was decided to monitor participation in the senior age category after one year and to evaluate it again after two years. Since there are hardly any dance competitions that offer a senior age competition, monitoring participation in this category will have to wait until after the EC in Berlin. The ESSDA board will investigate how many couples registered for and competed in the senior age category compared to the total number of couples competing in the EC.

#### **7. Activity reports**

For PR & Marketing and for Outreach several activities have been undertaken. Summary reports have been included in Appendix 1 and 2, respectively.

Update 8 October 2017

Diana Vinke

Female co-president ESSDA Board

## **Appendix 1 Summary Report PR & Marketing**

*Initial Marketing Plan created upon joining the board was used as a guide and revised according to arising needs and constraints.*

Previous activity from 2016-2017 includes:

- Started Twitter account @ESSDAdance and worked to oversee and post comments
- Helped promote Helsinki, Berlin and other European competitions online (partner newsletters, social media, flyering)
- Put together questionnaire for new competitors and sent to 12 new competitors representing 6 different European countries
- Used feedback to start writing ESSDA resource for new competitors (what-you-need-to-know/Competitor Starter Pack), including tips from current newbies. Currently in process of designing layout and awaiting one further testimony.
- Met with Chrisi to discuss member on-boarding
- Organised forthcoming Dancing Times article on the Berlin European Championships, to be featured in the next issue ('Stepping Out').

## Appendix 2 Summary Report Outreach

Previous activity from 2016-2017 includes:

- A special outreach letter was created for competition organizers calling for solidarity with competitors
- After failure of OutGames Miami email and telephone communications with organizers regarding financial compensation for our members – interrupted for police investigation
- Did the new same-sex adjudicators' training in Prague– as part of *a solidarity program* without a fee
- Met personally with members from Austria, France, Germany and United Kingdom to discuss outreach situation in their countries/clubs (to get the idea about number of people, background, active measures etc.)
- Talked personally to FGG officials about the affordability of the fees – will be focused more in upcoming months.