

Fifteenth ESPE Conference and General Assembly in Athens 2001

Report, General Assembly

The Fifteenth General Assembly of the European Society for Population Economics was held on Saturday, June 16, 2001 in Athens. 50 members attended the meeting. The President, Anders Bjorklund, led the Assembly. He thanked those involved with making the Athens meeting a success, especially the local organiser Panos Tsakloglou as well as Robert Wright, the scientific organiser. This year's meeting was very successful, which can be seen by the highly acclaimed plenary lectures of Zvi Eckstein and Bob Gregory, but also by a very high quality of the contributed papers. The number of contributed papers was significantly up from last year in Bonn: among 372 submissions, Robert Wright has chosen 190 presentations. Attendance at the meeting reached more than 200 participants. Anders Bjorklund reported also from the conference fee waiver awards to encourage participation of graduate students and young researchers. 10 such waivers were awarded this year to the best student paper proposals. This scheme will be continued in the next conferences.

The next conference of ESPE will be held in Bilbao, June 13-15 2002, and will be organised locally by Sara de la Rica and Arantza Ugidos from Universidad del Pais Vasco. The program chairman will be Peter Kooreman (Groningen); a Program Committee will assist him: Patricia Apps (Sidney), Daniel Hamermesh (Austin, Texas) and Valerie Lechene (Oxford). Keynote lectures will be delivered by David Laibson (Harvard) and Charles Manski (Northwestern).

For the years 2003 the council decided to bring the meeting to New York City. This will be a special event in order to expand the worldwide appeal of the European Society for Population Economics, which has always had many collaborators and members from overseas. Further plans for meetings in Bergen or Oslo were also discussed, but not yet decided.

The Secretary of the Society, Rudolf Winter-Ebmer, reported on the recent elections. In total, 53 ballots were received. Peter Kooreman from Groningen University was elected President-elect. He will become President of the Society in 2003, Robert Wright from the University of Stirling in Scotland will take office in 2002. For the Council, the four candidates with the highest votes – Patricia Apps (Sidney, re-elected), Miles Corak (Statistics Canada), Heather Joshi (London) and Klaus F. Zimmermann (IZA, Bonn) – were elected for a three year term. The positions are effective from January 2001. Further information about the Society is to be found on the Web-page of the Society. (<http://www.espe.org>) Due to the rather low voter turnout, it was discussed in the Council to investigate if web-based or email-based voting would be possible in the future.

The books of the Society (kept by the Treasurer Bernd Raffelhüschen) have been audited by Agneta Kruse and Marco Francesconi, their positive report has been approved by the Assembly. As of December 2000, the Society had 496 members.

Anders Bjorklund reported on behalf of the editors of the Journal of Population Economics, the Journal of the Society. The Journal has recently added two new editors (Daniel S. Hamermesh from Austin, Texas and Junsen Zhang from Hongkong), the ranking of the Journal is steadily improving: in citations it ranked 53rd last year, considerably higher than some well-known general purpose journals.

Anders Bjorklund, President.

Rudolf Winter-Ebmer, Secretary.