

# annual accounts 2019

Vereniging European Polar Board at The Hague

date reference 11 September 2020 20-780/SR

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# Report of the Board 2019

# **General information**

Legal name: European Polar Board (EPB) Legal residence: The Hague, The Netherlands Legal status: Dutch association Objective of the Association

The Association has as its object:

- a. to be the voice of the European polar research;
- b. to facilitate cooperation in all fields of polar science in its Member organisations across Europe;
- c. to perform all other actions related to the above in the broadest sense of those terms, or which could be beneficial to these.

# Organisation of the Association

The organisation of the Association comprises:

- the Board (Executive Committee)
- the Plenary Meeting
- the Secretariat

# Governance structure

The Plenary is the highest decision-making organ within the EPB, followed by the Board (Executive Committee) and then the Chair.

Members of the Board as of 31st of December 2019:

- Kirsi Latola (Chair)
- Nicole Biebow
- Antonio Quesada
- Vito Vitale
- Halldór Jóhannsson
- Renuka Badhe (Executive Secretary)

Members of the Financial Committee as of 31st of December 2019:

- Kirsi Latola
- Rein Vaikmae
- Philippe Huybrechts
- Renuka Badhe (Executive Secretary, non-voting member)

Members of the Association as of 31st of December 2019:

- Austrian Science Research Fund (FWF), Austria
- National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS), Belgium

- \_
- Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Belgium
- Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO), Belgium
- Bulgarian Antarctic Institute (BAI), Bulgaria
- Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education (DASHE), Denmark \_
- \_ Estonian Academy of Sciences (EAS), Estonia
- Thule Institute, University of Oulu, Finland
- Arctic Centre, University of Lapland, Finland
- National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France
- French Polar Institute Paul Emilie Victor (IPEV), France
- Helmholtz Association (HGF), Germany
- Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS), Iceland -
- Italian National Research Council (CNR), Italy -
- National Programme for Research in Antarctica (PNRA), Italy
- -Polar.lu, Luxembourg
- Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), Netherlands
- The Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway -
- Institute of Marine Research, Norway \_
- Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland -
- Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal -
- Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), Spain \_
- Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO), Spain
- Arctic Research Centre at Umeå University (ARCUM), Sweden
- Swedish Polar Research Secretariat (SPRS), Sweden -
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), Switzerland \_
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), UK -

# Secretariat:

- Renuka Badhe (Executive Secretary)
- Joseph Nolan (Policy Officer)
- Debbie Liauw (Administrative Assistant)

# Summary statement of income and expenditure per reporting date with budget 2019

	Actual 2019	Budget 2019
Income	€	€
Income from membership fees Income from hosting party Income SO-CHIC	171,000 50,000 7,607	171,000 50,000 0
Total income	228,607	221,000
Expenditure		
EPB Committee Meetings Direct Activity in Support of Polar Research Community Communication & Outreach EPB contribution to EU-PolarNet C2: Employment costs for Policy Officer Employment and administrative costs Other operational costs Costs SO-CHIC	12,029 14,952 8,148 1,852 48,026 98,973 2,208 6,086	20,000 58,000 35,000 14,252 65,169 105,000 0 0
Total expenditure	192,274	297,421
Balance income and expenditure	36,333	-76,421

# Activities and financial perspective

For the period 2019, the EPB had a budgeted balance of income and expenditure of  $- \notin 76,421$  and realised a balance of income and expenditure of  $\notin 36,333$ .

For the period 2019, the EPB had a budgeted expenditure of € 297,421, and realised a total of € 192,274. The actual spend in the budget lines for 2019 was lower than expected, due to the lower costs than anticipated for activities such as the EPB Committee Meetings, Direct Science Activities, Communication & Outreach and the management & administration costs, and as the EPB continues to develop and grow its activities in line with its Strategy 2017-2022. Several budget lines are carried forward to 2020 when they are anticipated to be more fully utilised.

# Taxes

As of 2017 the Tax Administration designated European Polar Board as an institution for General Benefit (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling or ANBI). Donations to the Foundation can therefore be deducted from income tax, as well as from company and inheritance tax.

# Report of activities (summary)

The EPB's Spring 2019 Plenary Meeting was held in Lisbon, Portugal on 27-28 March 2019, and the Autumn meeting was on 22-23 October 2019 in Brest, France.

EXCOM elections were held during the Spring 2019 Plenary Meeting, with V. Vitale and H. Jóhannsson elected to the Executive Committee, replacing J. Francis and T. Koivurova. A. Quesada was reappointed for a second term as a member of EXCOM.

During the Spring 2019 Plenary Meeting, the decision was made for R. Badhe to continue for a second term as Executive Secretary, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. The current position of Junior Policy Officer ended on 31 December 2019. In the Autumn 2019 Plenary meeting, the decision was made to employ a Policy Officer to support the EPB Secretariat from 1 January 2020.

During the Autumn 2019 Plenary Meeting K. Latola was re-elected as Chair for a second term by acclamation. N. Biebow was also re-elected to EXCOM by acclamation.

At the Autumn 2019 Plenary Meeting, a new strategy for internal and external EPB communication was accepted.

SO-CHIC (Southern Ocean Carbon and Heat Impact on Climate) is a four-year EU-funded project which began in November 2019. The EPB is a partner in the SO-CHIC project.

### Policy regarding funds and reserves for continuity

The EPB has a policy regarding holding a reserve for continuity which amounts to one year of operational costs. Plenary decided in the Spring 2016 Plenary Meeting that € 100,000 is the current appropriate level of this reserve, and this has been maintained at that level in 2019. Any results are first added to this reserve if needed, or added to a general reserve. The general reserve is available to fund new and developing EPB activities, and enable the EPB flexibility to take up opportunities for activity in line with its Strategy 2017-2022 as they may arise.

# **Treasury policy**

All funds are held in a Dutch bank account. This to make certain the EPB can use its liquidity at all times. This reflects the low risk profile of treasury by the EPB.

# Communication with external stakeholders policy

The EPB communicates with external stakeholders in a variety of ways. The EPB communicates with other organisations and partners directly through attendance and representation at a variety of relevant European and international meetings, using presentations, workshops and individual face to face contact. Additionally, the EPB utilises a variety of online communication methods, including webinars, a website, an email newsletter, active Twitter and YouTube accounts and emails directly to individuals within partner organisations.

# Members of Board, financial committee and Governance

# Tasks and responsibility of Board members

The Board is charged with the management of the Association. Its duties include the adoption of a current policy plan that provides insight into the work to be carried out by the Association in the pursuit of its object, the manner in which income is to be acquired, the management of the capital of the Association and the deployment thereof. The Board shall ensure that the administration expenses of the Association shall be in reasonable proportion to the expenditure for the purposes of its object.

The Board is not authorised to resolve to enter into agreements for the purchase, alienation or encumbrance of registered properties or agreements in which the Association commits itself as guarantor or a joint and several debtor, stands surety for a third party or commits to provide security for a third party's debt.

# Remuneration policy

Members of the Board shall receive no remuneration, either directly or indirectly, for the work they perform for the Association in that capacity. Members of the Board will receive a reasonable, non-excessive compensation for direct costs incurred for the benefit of the Association.

The Executive Secretary is a member of the Board (Executive Committee) and is head of the EPB Secretariat. The Executive Secretary receives a salary for their work as head of the EPB Secretariat.

# Composition, appointment and resolution of members of Executive Committee

Name	Role	Date appointment	Term
Kirsi Latola	EPB Chair	November 2017	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Renuka Badhe	EPB Executive Secretary	January 2015	N/A
Nicole Biebow	EPB ExCom Member	November 2017	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Antonio Quesada	EPB ExCom Member	March 2017	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Vito Vitale	EPB ExCom Member	March 2019	1 <sup>st</sup>
Halldór Jóhannsson	EPB ExCom Member	March 2019	1 <sup>st</sup>

Before January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 the EPB was part of the European Science Foundation. The EPB formed a non-governmental body under the auspices of the European Science Foundation. The EPB Board was composed of several Executive Committee Members. Terms of current Executive Committee Members include this previous period as well.

# Overview of current other positions of members of Executive Committee

Name	Organisation	Position
Kirsi Latola	Thule Institute, University of Oulu	Research Coordinator
Renuka Badhe	European Polar Board	Executive Secretary
Nicole Biebow	Alfred Wegener Institute	Head, International
		Cooperation Unit
Antonio Quesada	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	Professor
Vito Vitale	CNR Institute of Polar Science (ISP)	Senior Researcher
Halldór Jóhannsson	Arctic Portal	Executive Director

# Future

A strategic plan for 2017-2022 was adopted by the Plenary in the Spring Plenary 2017. During 2020, the EPB will begin an internal review process, to be followed by an external review process in 2022.

# Budget 2020

Budget year 2020 per budget item (approved at Spring 2020 Plenary Meeting)

	2020
	€
Income	
Member contributions	171,000
NWO contribution	50,000
SO-CHIC	63,313
INTERACT	22,469
Total income	306,782
Expenditure	
EPB Committee Meetings	20,000
Direct Activity in Support of Polar Research Community	33,000
Direct Activity project SO-CHIC	16,900
Direct Activity project INTERACT	5,475
Communication & Outreach	38,000
Operational costs	105,000
Personnel costs projects SO-CHIC and INTERACT	46,250
Overhead costs projects SO-CHIC and INTERACT	17,157
Total expenditure	281,782
Balance income and expenditure	25,000

# Risk

The EPB has a strong position in Europe. The EPB is solely addressing the voice and facilitator of European polar research. Entry to this is subjected by the need of vast network of participants involved. Members of the EPB need relevancy from their memberships and have committed themselves to a 5-year program 2017-2022.

As an organisation which interacts as a communication channel and facilitator for Members and polar research in general compliance and reputation risks are at hand. Entering into agreements and/or connections with other parties in this high political environment could damage the reputation of the EPB. The EPB is very cautious in entering into a relationship with any organisation, such as a new Member, possible collaboration or connection. Decisions on this are made by Plenary and/or Executive Committee.

The EPB is exposed to financial risks by not receiving the membership fee in time or at all. Members are expected to pay every year during the first quarter of that year, but due to several reasons not every Member is able to cope with this. This risk is minimised by personal contact by the Executive Secretary with the applicable Member, contact with other Executive Committee Members and reporting on the status of payments during Plenary meetings.

Operational risks are realistic, because of the challenges of a small organisation, relatively young, and a high dependency on human interaction. In 2016 a Junior Policy Officer was added to the team of the EPB and in 2017 bookkeeping and payment process has been partly outsourced.

The EPB has a continuity reserve of € 100,000 to cope with unexpected losses.

Risk profile of the EPB is acceptable and risks were adequately controlled during 2019.

Due to the outbreak of the corona virus worldwide, including the Netherlands, drastic measures have been taken by various governments to get the virus under control. The corona crisis and the measures are expected to have limited financial consequences for the foundation. There is no doubt about the going concern of EPB (there is a good cash position).

In the coming next years the EPB is expected to further develop as an organisation as it continues work to fulfil its Strategy.

The Hague,11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Nicole Biebow

Kirsi Latola Chair

Antonio Quesada Member

Nicole Biebow Member

Vito Vitale Member

Remuka Ba

Renuka Badhe Executive Secretary

# A. Balance sheet as at 31 December 2019 (after allocation of balance from income and expenditure)

<u>Ref.</u>		31-12-2019	31-12-2018
		€	€
	ASSETS		
1. 2. 3.	Current assets - Receivables - Cash and cash equivalents - Receivables SO-CHIC Total current assets	46,500 351,575 7,607 405,682	93,250 282,748 0 375,998
	Total assets	405,682	375,998
	LIABILITIES		
4.	Reserves - Continuity reserve - General reserve	100,000 232,782	100,000 196,449
	Total reserves	332,782	296,449
5.	Debts - Short term debts	72,900	79,549
	Total liabilities	405,682	375,998

# B. Statement of income and expenditure

<u>Ref.</u>		Actual 2019	Budget 2019	Actual 2018
		€	€	€
	INCOME			
6. 7. 8.	Income from membership fees Income from hosting party Income SO-CHIC	171,000 50,000 7,607	171,000 50,000 0	170,782 50,000 0
	Total income	228,607	221,000	220,782
	EXPENDITURE			
9. 10. 11.	<ul> <li>Spent on objectives</li> <li>EPB Committee Meetings</li> <li>Direct Science Activity</li> <li>Communication &amp; Outreach</li> </ul>	12,029 14,952 8,148	20,000 58,000 35,000	20,605 18,878 25,468
	Total spent on objectives	35,129	113,000	64,951
12.	EPB contribution to EU-PolarNet	1,852	14,252	0
13.	Management and administration	149,207	170,169	145,221
14.	Costs SO-CHIC	6,086	0	0
	Total expenditure	192,274	297,421	210,172
	Balance income and expenditure	36,333	-76,421	10,610
	Allocation: - General reserve	36,333	-76,421	10,610
	Total	36,333	-76,421	10,610

# C. Cash flow statement

<u>Ref.</u>			20	)19			2018	
		€		€		€	€	
	Cash flow from operational activities							
	Balance income and expenditure				36,333			10,610
1. 5.	Changes in working capital - Change in receivables - Change in short-term debts		39,143 -6,649			-18,250 9,549		
	Total changes in working capital				32,494			-8,701
	Total cash flow from operational activities				68,827			1,909
2.	Changes in cash and cash equivalents				68,827		_	1,909
	Cash and cash equivalents 1 January Cash and cash equivalents 31 December				82,748 51,575		_	280,839 282,748
	Changes in cash and cash equivalents				68,827		_	1,909

# D. Accounting principles

# General information

The reporting entity, the European Polar Board, was founded on March 23, 2016. It has its registered office at Laan van Nieuw Oost-Indië 300, 2593 CE in The Hague.

The fiscal year 2019 covers the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

The objective of the Association, under its Articles of Association (art. 3.1) reads as follows:

The Association has as its object:

- a. to be the voice of the European polar research;
- b. to facilitate cooperation in all fields of polar science in its Member states across Europe;
- c. to perform all other actions related to the above in the broadest sense of those terms, or which could be beneficial to these.

The Association shall endeavor to achieve this object by, inter alia (art 3.2):

- a. providing a forum for the comprehensive inclusion of all relevant partners in Europe and the broad coverage of all scientific fields of polar research;
- b. promoting polar research to the European Community based on its bipolar vision;
- c. providing a central organizational structure supporting European polar science;
- d. supporting development of joint scientific programmes, in optimized use of European research infrastructures and in representation of polar issues within European research framework programmes.

# Going concern

The accounting policies within the financial statements are based on the assumption that the European Polar Board will be able to continue as a going concern.

# <u>RJ C1</u>

This presentation of the financial statements is in accordance with Dutch Accounting Standard: Board's Guideline for Annual Reporting C1 for small not-for-profit organisations.

# <u>Estimates</u>

In applying the accounting policies and standards for preparing financial statements, the European Polar Board is required to make estimates and judgments that might be essential for the amounts disclosed in the annual accounts. If necessary for the purposes of providing the view required under Section 362(1), Book 2 of the Netherlands Civil Code, the nature of these estimates and judgments, including the related assumptions, has been disclosed in the notes to the relevant items.

# Accounting principles for the balance sheet

Unless otherwise indicated, assets and liabilities are entered at historical cost and are used for the objectives of the Association.

The balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement include references to the notes.

# **Receivables**

Receivables are recognized at fair value. If payment of the receivable is postponed under an extended payment deadline, fair value is measured on the basis of discounted value of the expected revenues. If a receivable appears to be uncollectible a provision for bad debts will be created and reported in the figures.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and bank balances. Cash and cash equivalents are stated at nominal value.

### Reserves

The continuity reserve is created to ensure that the Association can meet its legal and moral obligations in case of a significant fall in income in the future.

### Liabilities

Liabilities are initially recognized at fair value. Transaction costs directly attributable to the incurrence of the liabilities are included in the measurement on initial recognition. Liabilities are subsequently measured at amortized costs; this is the amount received plus or less any premium or discount and net of transaction costs.

# Accounting principles for the statement of income and expenditure

# Income and expenditure

Income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred and are recorded in the financial statements of the period to which they relate. Losses are taken into account if they originate in the financial year and as soon as these are anticipated. Profit or loss is determined as the difference between realisable value of the services delivered and the costs and other charges for the year.

The project income is recorded as income and matched with the expenditure, according to the project agreement, in the financial statements of the period to which they relate.

Labour costs are taken to the income statement based on the terms of employment, where they are due to employees.

# Accounting principles for the cash flow statement

The cash flow statement has been prepared using the indirect method. The cash items disclosed in the cash flow statement comprise cash at banks and in hand except for deposits with a maturity longer than three months. Cash flows denominated in foreign currencies have been translated at average estimated exchange rates. Exchange differences affecting cash items are shown separately in the cash flow statement. Interest paid and received, dividends received and income taxes are included in cash from operating activities. Transactions not resulting in inflow or outflow of cash, including finance leases, are not recognised in the cash flow statement.

# Accounting principles for transactions in foreign currency

# Functional currency

Items included in the financial statements are valued with due regard for the currency in the economic environment in which the Association carries out most of its activities (the functional currency). The financial statements are denominated in euros; this is both the functional currency and presentation currency of the Association.

# **Transactions**

Transactions in foreign currencies are stated in the financial statements at the exchange rate of the functional currency on the transaction date.

1.

2.

	31-12-2019	31-12-2018
	€	€
<u>Receivables</u>		
Amounts receivable	46,500	93,250
Total receivables	46,500	93,250
- Amounts receivable		
NWO Mineco Ministerio de Economia y Competit Spain Politique Scientific Federale CNR CNRS Instituto Geologico y Mirero de Espana Total amounts receivable * Received in 2020.	40,000 * 3,250 3,250 * 0 0 0 0 46,500	40,000 0 40,000 10,000 <u>3,250</u> 93,250
Cash and cash equivalents		
ABN AMRO - Bank Account ABN AMRO - Bank Account Deposit	251,575 100,000	182,748 100,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	351,575	282,748

The cash and cash equivalents can be withdrawn upon demand.

3.	Receivables SO-CHIC	7,607	0
0.			0

The receivables of the SO-CHIC project concern the project income of the period November  $1^{st}$  2019 till December  $31^{st}$  2019. In 2020 EPB has received the first prepayment from the project coordinator (€ 122,404).

	31-12-2019	31-12-2018
	€	€
Reserves		
- Continuity reserve		
Balance at 1 January 2019 Allocation balance income and expenditure	100,000 0	100,000 0
Balance at 31 December 2019	100,000	100,000
- General reserve		
Balance at 1 January 2019 Allocation balance income and expenditure	196,449 36,333_	185,839 10,610
Balance at 31 December 2019	232,782	196,449
Short term debts		
Staff and travel costs Publication costs Other short term debts	72,900 0 0	66,220 7,568 5,761
Short term debts	72,900 *	79,549

\* The short term debts are paid in 2020.

4.

5.

All short term debts have a maturity shorter than one year.

# OFF-BALANCE SHEET COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

With the 'Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek' (NWO) a hosting agreement until 2020 has been agreed upon as decided by Plenary Meeting in Autumn 2014. NWO will facilitate housing, office, IT, finance, administration and staffing services.

In April 2018, the EPB received notification from NWO of their decision to extend their offer to host the Secretariat in The Hague for a second period of 5 years, starting on 1st January 2020 and ending 31st December 2024. The offered conditions of the hosting agreement remain the same as the first 5-year period, subject to practical and required operational adjustments based on mutual agreement between the EPB and NWO.

# POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

Due to the outbreak of the corona virus worldwide, including the Netherlands, drastic measures have been taken by various governments to get the virus under control. The corona crisis and the measures are expected to have financial consequences for the foundation. The exact financial consequences are currently incalculable.

# F. Notes to the statement of income and expenditure

	Actual 2019	Budget 2019	Actual 2018
INCOME	€	€	€
Income from membership fees			
Membership fees	171,000	171,000	170,782
Total income from membership fees	171,000	171,000	170,782
Income from hosting party			
Contribution hosting party	40,000	40,000	40,000
Contribution hosting party in kind	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total income from hosting party	50,000	50,000	50,000
Income project SO-CHIC	7,607	0	0

EPB is one of the partners in the EU project SO-CHIC. The coordination of the SO-CHIC project is the Sorbonne University. The project has started on November 1st 2019 and has a duration of 48 months. The total budget of EPB is  $\in$  253,250, the total budget of the project is  $\notin$  7,989,925.

# EXPENDITURE

6.

7.

8.

9. Direct costs: EPB Committee Meetings

EPB Committee Meetings	12,029	20,000	20,605
Total direct costs EPB Committee Meetings	12,029 *	20,000	20,605

\* Direct costs for EPB Committee are mainly costs incurred by travelling abroad by the Executive Secretary and facilitation/organisation of EPB meetings abroad. EU-PolarNet activities and EPB Committee Meetings activities are combined in several occasions. Allocation of costs to EPB Committee Meetings compared to EU-PolarNet is relatively high for the reporting period.

		Actual 2019	Budget 2019	Actual 2018	
		€	€	€	
10.	Direct costs: Direct Science Activity				
	EPB Action Groups Infrastructure Acces Workshop	543 4,850		0 0	
	Support for EU-PolarNet Meetings (EPB Support) EPB Strategy and Implementation Plan retreat Infrastructure/GIS maintenance Support for Scientific initiatives	9,559		8,976	
		0 0 0		9,302 400 200	
	Total direct costs Direct Science Activity	14,952	58,000	18,878	
11.	Direct costs: Communication & Outreach				
	EU-PolarNet infrastructure catalogue publication EPB website (training, maintenance) EPB Outreach Publication costs	0 2,076 5,786 286		14,824 432 1,586 8,626	
	Total direct costs Communications & Outreach	8,148	35,000	25,468	
12.	EPB contribution to EU-PolarNet	1,852	14,252	0	
13.	Management and administration				
	C2 Employment costs for Policy Officer C3 Employment costs for Policy Officer Other operational costs	48,026 98,973 2,208	65,169 105,000 <u>0</u>	45,565 96,248 3,408	
	Total management and administration	149,207	170,169	145,221	

The members of the Executive Committee receive no remuneration. The Executive Secretary is only compensated for their work at the Secretariat.

Staff costs are charged by NWO for the employees working at the Secretariat of the European Polar Board. As of January 2018, an Executive Secretary for 1.0 FTE and a Policy Officer for 1.0 FTE are working for the European Polar Board within NWO as a host organisation.

	Actual 2019		Budget <u>2019</u>			Actual 2018	
	€		€		€		
- Other operational costs							
Legal & General Other direct costs	-	0 <u>2.208</u>			-	1,472 <u>1,936</u>	
Total other operational cost		<u>2,208</u>			-	<u>3,408</u>	
Costs SO-CHIC							
Labor costs Travel costs	-	5,000 <u>1.086</u>					
Total costs SO-CHIC	-	<u>6,086</u>	-	<u>0</u>	-	<u>0</u>	

The Hague,11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Nicole Biebow

Kirsi Latola Chair

14.

Antonio Quesada Member

Nicole Biebow Member

Vito Vitale Member

le Remuka Badhe

Renuka Badhe Executive Secretary