

Letter from the President



Lotta Haglund

Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences, GIH
Stockholm, Sweden
Contact: lotta.haglund@gih.se

Dear EAHIL colleagues,

When writing this column a year ago – my first Letter from the President – I sent you wishes for a new year and the return to a more normal life. None of us thought that we would still be working from home, with more or less strict restrictions and/or lockdowns. I hope I'm not jinxing anything by hoping that we now can see some kind of light at the end of the tunnel and that many of us will be able to meet in Rotterdam in June. At the time of writing, the evaluation of submitted abstracts is underway. I'm happy to say that the quality is very high, from the selection I've had the honour to evaluate. After several reminders from the IPC and LOC chairs, the number of submitted abstracts increased the very last days before the deadline, enabling the arrangement of an in-person event with the possibility for digital attendance.

During the past months, our member database administrators have been working to clean and update the database. It turned out that we had many outdated e-mail addresses on record, which means that we're unable to reach those members. When the possibility to update your account was closed on 1 December, after numerous attempts to localize and contact members who hadn't updated their account, the result was more than 50 % decrease in active members, from 2094 members in 2021 to 983 in 2022. This decrease will directly influence the number of Council members for some countries since this is based on the total number of members in a country.

As elections are coming up this year, Board election in spring and Council in autumn, the consequences of the loss of members will be felt already next year. Information about the election processes will be forthcoming.

The pandemic has made it much more challenging to plan for the future, and many things are still uncertain. Since our yearly events are the main activities of our Association, and the planning timeline for an event is approximately two years, we need to secure locations for the events from 2024 onwards. I invite you to send expressions of interest or proposals to EAHIL-SECR@LIST.ECOMPASS.NL. Please refer to <http://eahil.eu/events/arrange-conference/> for event guidelines and feel free to contact other Board members or me for discussion and support.

Looking forward to hearing from you with proposals and suggestions,

Lotta