

TREASURER'S REPORT 2022

Hello General Assembly,

I know why you are all here; the finance of the EJA is the real reason you have come to the General Assembly. Don't worry, my talk will only last 30 minutes to an hour, so strap in and prepare for the rollercoaster ride that is EJA Finance.

We have had an interesting time at the EJA over the last few years, looking into how we can continue to engage with our community whilst remaining safe and remote. May I first say a big thank you to the team in Hanko; they have had a very rough time, coming in last minute as Leipzig were unable to host, having their convention postponed in 2020, and then finally having to cancel in 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic.

The EJA had to bear the brunt of the cost for postponing the convention in 2020, and this was highlighted in the 2020 accounts presented to the VEJC. In 2021, due to COVID, the Hanko team was left with no other choice but to cancel their event, but they expressed the desire to go ahead with a Gala show regardless and so members of the EJA, alongside the Hanko team, created the Virtual EJC (VEJC).

This, as you can imagine, had costs, but there was no income due to no ticket selling. The EJA granted Hanko €6,000 with the conditions that any money not spent would come back to the EJA, and that the EJA would try to recoup some of this money through donations at the event.

The Hardest Juggling Trick Here (Finance)

In 2020-21, I conducted a stress test of the EJA finances, and this was presented to the board for review. Following this, the EJA from 2021 onwards has been making some changes to ensure that our finances remain healthy and that we can continue to provide financial support for future EJs.

The costs of running an EJC have increased significantly due to a number of different factors, including COVID, inflation, and a continuously expanding EJC programme. As a result, the loans which the EJA provides for EJs are going to have to increase as well.

If EJA finances do not remain in line with these costs, there is a risk that we will no longer be able to offer financial support for multiple EJs at once. This is of huge concern when it comes to securing future EJC venues. If no action were to be taken, the worst-case prediction is that a lack of sufficient funding would begin to impact us as soon as 2027. However, please rest assured that this is the worst-case scenario and that the EJA is taking



steps to ensure that this does not happen. The General Assembly can be confident that the EJA is planning ahead to future proof our finances.

A lot of people here may not be aware of how the EJA is funded. Prior to 2022, the only source of income for the EJA came from a surplus shared with the EJC. If the EJC returned a surplus, the EJA received a pre-agreed percentage of that surplus to help fund future EJs. However, I believe that these surpluses will only get lower and lower in the future, and this is due to a combination of factors, namely low ticket prices, bigger and better EJs, and the inevitable increases in costs.

Whilst I believe it is very important to keep ticket prices low so as to enable all participants to enjoy the amazing event that is the EJC, as a community we need to start thinking about ways to make the EJC more financially successful. It is not the job of the EJA to tell the EJC how to run their event; the EJA is merely here to advise, support, and to guide EJs. However, as a community we need to think about how we can best juggle these competing challenges.

Our greatest juggling act will be to keep ticket prices low, to continue elevating the EJC programme, and to increase participation from less socio-economically advantaged countries whilst continuing to return a surplus to fund future EJs, in addition to funding local community projects in host EJC cities.

Voluntary EJA Contribution

One of the ways to ensure a healthily funded EJA is to introduce a voluntary EJA contribution. This will allow members of our community to donate money to help fund the EJA. Hundreds of people have already donated to the EJA, and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their continued support.

We will be looking at other ways that the EJA can generate income to ensure that we are not reliant solely on the EJC surplus. We have relatively low operating costs, but we must ensure that we can cover these each year in addition to returning a surplus that will keep pace with increasing inflation.

Bubba's Closing Remarks

It has been an honour to serve this community as Treasurer and over the last two years I have worked with some amazing people. This is a community full of talented people, and on that note, the EJA is in need of volunteers to take on projects ranging from IT support, to social media, to translation and general admin work. You don't need to be at the top of your field; you just need to be able to donate your time.

However, this is where I now leave a warning, and this is not only relevant to the EJA but is something that I have noticed within our community as a whole. There are too few people taking on leadership or organisation



roles within our community. I have seen too many people burn out over the last few years, so I ask you, when you go back to your own local community, ask your organisers if there is anything you can do to help them. When you go back to your local community, show your organisers the appreciation that you have for all the hard work that they do for you. And when you go back to your local community, support your organisers and ensure that they are not burning out.

I wish you all an amazing EJC 2022.

Bubba
Treasurer