

Dear ESSD members

Of course, 2020 was difficult for us all, and the ESSD Board wishes you a better, happy and healthy 2021. Here's a short round-up of ESSD news.

As you know, the 2020 ESSD conference was held online. Thanks to the fantastic work by Meropi Tzanetakis and Alfred Uhl in Vienna, it was a success. There was a stimulating, well-organised programme of 30 short presentations, and you can find all the abstracts on the ESSD website (<http://www.essd-research.eu/>). The conference was well-attended: the number of participants logged in at each session ranged from 37-57 (most sessions had 40-50 participants). The IT skills of Emir Handžo meant it all ran smoothly, and the friendly and supportive ESSD vibe was still there, not least via Zoom's chat facility, which was well-used throughout. A great addition to the conference was a Zoom room where early career researchers could meet, both formally (as a forum) and informally (during the breaks). It was great to see both familiar and new faces, and the ESSD Board thanks all the participants, presenters and session chairs for their contributions to making this conference successful

We're really pleased to tell you that in addition to organising the 2020 online conference, Alfred and Meropi have very kindly volunteered to organise the 2021 conference in Vienna. We hope to meet as many of you as possible there, face-to-face again.

Instead of a 2021 ESSD book on a theme arising from the 2020 conference, Meropi and Bernd Wense are editing a special issue of the *Kriminologisches Journal* (KrimJ) on 'Drugs and digital technologies'. KrimJ is a double-blind peer-reviewed journal that publishes critical and reflexive social science articles related to criminology, in German and English.

We hope to publish the 2020 ESSD book, *'Who? Variation and distinction in the European drugs landscape'* early in the new year. It's edited by Caroline Chatwin, Gary Potter and Bernd Wense. Thanks to them for working on the book as well as all the extra work they had at their universities this year due to the pandemic.

The next elections to the ESSD Board should be held at the 2021 conference. However, due to all the disruption Covid-19 has caused, we intend to postpone these until 2022. If you have any comments about this intention, please let us know via essd.research@ugent.be

Finally, the board thanks Annemieke Benschop for maintaining and updating the ESSD website and for her assistance with the ESSD book, and Frédérique Bawin for her work for the ESSD Secretariat.

Again, a happy new year to you all from the ESSD Board, and stay safe!

Dirk J Korf (President) Jane Fountain (Vice-president) Tom Decorte (Secretariat)
Aileen O'Gorman Gary R Potter Julie Tieberghien Bernd Wense