



Tallinn, March 28, 2021

Letter to the members - Call for board applications

Dear emma members,

We hope that this message finds you all well. Many countries in Europe are currently being hit by a third wave of COVID; Estonia – which is where I am writing from – has been one of the world's most severely affected countries. Sometimes it is difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but there will be an end to this. And with all our hopes pinned on the vaccinations, a highlight of a more positive future will surely be the **upcoming emma conference that takes place from 27 October to 29 October this year.**

The preparations for emma's next conference are in full swing. Joaquin Cestino and his team in Jönköping are working intensively to enable yet another interesting, inspiring and generally enjoyable emma experience! We have high hopes that many of you will be able to attend the event in person. But even for those who will still not be able to travel in October, we can assure you that you will be able to present your accepted papers at the conference. So, do not forget the deadline for **abstract submission: it is 30 April!**

As per tradition, we will hold an Annual General Assembly (AGA) of all our members on the last day of the conference, which this year will be Friday, 29 October. And as per tradition, the outgoing board will officially hand over its work and responsibilities to the new board at this event.

However, in a divergence from the usual procedure, we wish to elect the new board this year before the AGA and not during the AGA. This is because our annual conferences usually take place in late spring or early summer. The 2021 conference is an exception, as the event has been postponed from June to October due to the ongoing pandemic. The new emma board usually takes office in late spring so that it has a whole year to prepare for the next emma conference. If we elected a new board in October this year, it would not have enough time to plan and organise the emma2022 conference. Hence, we wish to hold the board elections in June, despite the conference and the AGA taking place in October.

Many of you may remember that we were unable to hold online board elections last year. We have to follow a strict protocol for these elections and adhere to Estonian law as emma is registered in Estonia. Last year, the regulations did not allow online voting by members not in possession of an Estonian digital ID. The good news is that these regulations have now changed, and we can hold our board elections online this year.

Hence, the current board has decided on the following schedule:

- Online elections for the new board will be held in June. In accordance with the regulations, voting needs to be open for a minimum period of seven days. Hence, the **elections will take place between 14 and 21 June 2021**.
- Once the new board is elected, there will be
 - o an outgoing board that is still involved in the preparation of the emma2021 conference and that will organise the Annual General Assembly in October; and
 - o an incoming board that will start planning the emma2022 conference and all future activities.
- At the AGA in October, the outgoing board will report on the status of the Association and officially hand over to the incoming board that will have been elected in June.

This schedule will not only allow the new board to start preparing for the emma2022 conference on time, but will also enable a smooth takeover from one board to the next. In the transition period between June and October, both boards (the outgoing and incoming) will be able to collaborate closely.

So, the main question for you is:

Would you like to become an emma board member?

The following positions are up for election:

- President
- Deputy president
- Secretary
- Project chair
- Co-opted board member (currently unoccupied, one year position)

The following current members will remain on the board (as they hold positions without term limit): Bianca Harms (Communications Portfolio) and Ramona Dremljuga (Treasurer).

The attached documents provide overviews of each position together with useful information about the responsibilities that each post entails and some of the skills that will be helpful for fulfilling the respective duties.

If you would like to apply for one of these positions, please provide us with the following:

1. Letter of application (indicating your motivation for wishing to join the board)
2. Biography (max. 200 words)
3. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
4. A video of max. 2 minutes in which you introduce yourself to our members.
5. A statement indicating whether your video can be publicly shared on social media or only with emma members.

Please note that only emma members can apply for these positions. Also, only emma members are entitled to vote.

If you wish to apply, please send the requested documents to our Secretary, Sari Virta (sarivirta@live.com) by **no later than 30 April**. For the videos, we kindly ask that you send a link from where Sari can download the video, rather than sending her the video by email.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. All current board members are happy to discuss the board's work with you.

On behalf of the Board and with best wishes,
Ulrike Rohn
emma President (2016 – 2021)