

# Policy 2018-2019

## European Horizons Amsterdam Chapter



### Board Amsterdam 2018-2019

**President** Derk de Haan

**Secretary** Miriam van der Veen

**Treasurer** Johanna Kappenberg

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## Postface

# Preface

Dear member of the Amsterdam chapter European Horizons,

Last academic year was the founding year of our chapter. A new opportunity at the University of Amsterdam for students who are actively committed to and interested in the future of Europe and the European Union. The previous board, Philipp, Mirjam and Ferdinand, gathered a group of enthusiastic students from different backgrounds and nationalities to form the chapter in Amsterdam. We as the new board wish to continue building on the groundwork laid by our predecessors. In the following pages you will find a brief overview of our policy for the academic year 2018-2019. We want to set achievable goals, grow as a chapter and bring more structure to the chapter and chapter-related activities. We hope that you will be energized by our plans for the coming year and we hope that you will contribute enthusiastically.

Sincerely,

The Amsterdam board 2018-2019

President	Derk de Haan
Secretary	Miriam van der Veen
Treasurer	Johanna Kappenberg

# The Chapter

## Expansion

To achieve what we want to achieve, we believe it is in our best interest to add more members to our chapter. We want to expand to a number of 30 members in total. This for several reasons:

- **Division of the workload.** By adding extra members to the current research groups, we believe it will be easier to realize output.
- **Larger group during the meetings.** It is normal that a member can't attend every meeting. By expanding the chapter, we make sure that every meeting has sufficient attendance.
- **More members, more input.** By adding additional minds, we increase the input from different fields of study. This enhances the diversity, views and discussions within the chapter.

We seek our new members in different fields of study. We approached several course coordinators for speaking/presentation time during one of their lectures. The following studies of the UvA have been approached:

- **PPLE**
- **Political Science (Bachelor)**
- **Political Science (Master; all specialization tracks)**
- **History**

Of course we're open to other fields of study as well. Alongside the presentation during lectures, we will actively promote European Horizons via social media and mouth to mouth promotion to friends and other students.

There will be an information night on the **18<sup>th</sup> of October** and the application deadline will be on the **31<sup>th</sup> of October**. You will be updated if anything changes surrounding these dates.

# The Meetings

## Format

Last year there was a meeting every two weeks. It is our opinion that meeting twice a month is too much. We want to hold a monthly meeting that has a clear structure and meaningful content. Adding to this, we want to focus more on the social aspect of the chapter. We want to organize several social activities so that we as a chapter grow closer together. Activities such as the trampoline park last year and drinking of alcoholic beverages. With this we want to enhance the groupness of the chapter. These activities will be the informal ‘meetings’. The formal meetings will have a more professional approach with a general structure. The structure itself will not be very different from last year but we believe that by holding a monthly meeting, the meetings will have more content. The structure of the meeting will generally be as follows:

- **Opening**
- **Announcements of the Board:** informing the members about developments in the central organization, actions undertaken by the board, announcing of upcoming deadlines or events and asking members for input on certain aspects.
- **Announcements of the Research groups:** Informing the rest of the chapter about the steps undertaken within the research groups, presenting (part of) the research or information about planned events.
- **Content related discussion:** The topic and format of the content relate discussion will be the responsibility of the board. If you want to discuss a certain topic or want to lead one of the discussion, just let the board know!
- **Wrap-Up & Closing**

We aim to have two hours meetings that are filled with enough interesting content. As for the time and day of the meeting, we aim to have a standard timeslot and day with no to as little as possible fluctuations. We want to keep it at a certain time and day but we realize that schedules change with semester but we try to keep it as constant as possible.

## Communication & preparation

To have efficient and interesting meeting it's important to know what is going to be on the agenda and to prepare certain questions that for example the board may have. We want to improve the communication and preparation of the meetings with several steps. With the actions we hope to have more organized and effective meetings. Because we are cutting the number of meetings in half, it's crucial that we don't waste the time of the meetings. A meeting where everybody is up to date and prepared is a good meeting. These steps will be undertaken:

- **Proper communication.** We as a board want to establish a clear line of communication with the members. Because social media is often easy overlooked, we want to communicate primarily via email.
- **Proper preparation.** We want an efficient meeting so we want to make sure that every member is prepared for the meeting. This means that we actively keep our members up to date about the meetings, the topics of the agenda of the meetings, upcoming European Horizons events or conferences and developments in the organization as a whole. This also includes reminders of meetings a week to three days before with the agenda of the meeting.
- **Asking for input.** We will approach the research groups for updates and input for the meetings. For the second part of the meeting, it's important to know which research groups will have something to share or present and which groups don't.
- **Sharing of important news and documents.** We want to make sure that every member knows exactly what's going on in the organization in the form of events or conferences. We'll make sure that, apart from the updates during the monthly meeting, our members are well informed on these types of activities and the necessary requirements.

# Research and Events

## Research groups

Currently we have several groups researching a diverse set of subjects. In the previous year most of these groups haven't had real output in the form of papers, blogposts or events. In the coming year we want to up the output of the research groups and with that the output as a chapter. To realize this increase in output, we plan to do the following:

- **Research output.** To increase the output of the chapter, we want to set deadlines for output with the research groups. Our goal is to produce at least one research paper, blogpost or organize an event every semester. These deadlines will be set and coordinated with the research groups. With this we want to achieve a decent amount of output in the year 2018-2019
- **More central role as the board.** The research groups are currently without a central role for the board. Board members are part of the research groups but we want to take up a more central role as board members. The board will be more responsible for the process of the research group and will take the lead in the research. This includes monitoring (up to a certain point) and motivating the group members.
- **Continue every project (?).** Last year we took on an ambitious amount of subjects for the research group. Since we will be focusing more on output, it's important that every research group holds a meeting to decide if they want to continue with the subject and how they will research the subject.
- **Study related research.** The subjects of the research groups often have overlap with the courses or fields of study of its members. The research done for European Horizons can also be helpful in own research papers and essays. In the coming year we will try to connect European Horizons research with the studies of the members.

We want to be a productive chapter with decent and interesting output in the form of papers, blogposts and events. We also believe that this contributes to the name and the recognition as a chapter in the organization and towards other organizations.

## Output coming year

As mentioned in the previous page, we want to be a productive chapter. For this the output is essential. We believe that the goal of output every semester is the perfect combination between achievable and ambition. To grow as a chapter, we have to gather recognition and ‘fame’ so that we can look for research partners, funding and spaces to hold events or conferences. Especially with the European Parliament elections of 2019 coming up. We can play a central role at the UvA surrounding these elections by organizing events, talks and discussions in cooperation with the UvA. We plan to take this central role and create a student platform on the topic of the elections. We hope not only to cooperate with the UvA but also with other parties involved in these elections and to establish the basis for a network.

# Cooperation

## Central organization & conferences

We're part of a very big organization as the Amsterdam chapter. We believe that we as a board and as a chapter can learn a lot from the central organization. With Philipp moving from the president of the Amsterdam Chapter to Director of Chapters (Europe and Asia), we have a short and easy line of communication with the central board of European Horizons. We tend to use this as much as possible. Especially on the following points:

- **Funding.** We as a chapter have no funding at the moment. We want to make at least a start in gathering funds for our chapter. Funds help to organize better and bigger events, make fieldtrips possible and can partly cover the costs for attending conferences. Since we're lacking the expertise for gathering these funds, we will be looking for guidance from the central organization and, with their help, lay the foundation for funding for the coming years.
- **Conferences.** European Horizons is not just doing research within your chapter. It is also about meeting other likeminded students. European Horizons organizes several conferences a year and we intend to be present at as many as possible (if possible all). This is not just for the board but for every member interested. We'll make sure that the members are up to date on upcoming events or conferences. The board will organize the stay and transportation for the conferences from a central role for the members that will participate.
- **Organizing events.** The same goes for event organizing as for funding. European Horizons has experience and expertise in organizing events on universities and public places. We want to make use of this knowledge with the organization around the European Parliament elections of 2019. This will be a big part of our focus in 2018-2019.

## European chapters & Buddy program

Cooperation with other chapters of European Horizons is one of the more social and exciting aspects of the organization. We believe that European and transatlantic cooperation is possible and very useful. We want to make the first steps in creating a network between Amsterdam and other chapters in the following manner:

- **European chapters.** Cooperation with European chapters is especially interested for us. Several chapters are located in cities relatively nearby Amsterdam and the board and members of these chapters are highly likely to be present in conferences of European Horizons. Cooperation on more than just research is therefore a good possibility. In the coming year we will try to organize a mini conference with nearby chapters and will actively approach these chapters during European Horizons conferences.
- **Buddy program.** Last year the buddy program was introduced to us and we as a chapter were connected with Georgetown University. We as a board are very excited with this initiative to enhance the transatlantic cooperation between chapters. We want to contribute where we can but we believe that we first have to lay the groundwork for our own research and chapter before we can add to a successful and useful transatlantic cooperation.

Our main focus will still be on our own chapter. Although we focus on Amsterdam, we want to open the communication with other chapters so that cooperation in the future will be a certainty.

## Postface

We hope that this policy document has given a good and clear overview of what we plan to achieve as a board in the academic year 2018-2019. We want to be ambitious without taking on too much in the coming year. We planning to be more productive, more organized and better structured so that we can grow as a chapter. You as a member play an instrumental role in achieving this. We hope that you will participate and contribute to our plans for the new year. The policy set out in this document is not set in stone. We are always open for ideas, questions and critique on our plans, meetings or our leadership. Active membership is what will help this chapter thrive and grow in the coming year. Let's make 2018-2019 an efficient, productive and above all a fantastic second year of the European Horizons Amsterdam Chapter!

Sincerely,

On behalf of the rest of the Amsterdam board,

Derk de Haan

President