Biennial Report of Research Networks – Some criteria

The ESA Executive Committee expects a written biennial Report of about two pages on the activities of each Research Network during the past two-year term. This report will be published on the ESA website, in the section of each RN. You are writing the history of your RN and the institutional memory with this report. The report is due after each ESA Conference and includes the activities of your RN at that conference. It shall be sent no later than at the end of that year and should be sent to the ESA secretariat: esa (at) europeansociology.org.

There is no formal template, you are free how you want to design it. To facilitate preparing the report, please consider the following criteria:

1. Name and Number of RN
Research Network 28 Society and Sport

2. Names and email addresses of:
   a. outgoing Coordinators and board members (past term)

   Coordinator: Alessandro Porrovecchio, University of the Littoral Opal Coast, alessandro.porrovecchio@univ-littoral.fr
   Vice coordinator: Nico Bortoletto, University of Teramo, nbortoletto@unite.it
   Past coordinator: Honorata Jakubowska, Adam Mickiewicz University, honorata@amu.edu.pl
   PHD/ECR representative: Kaja Różdżyńska, University of Warsaw, kaja.rozdzynska@gmail.com
   Board members:
   • Lucie Forté-Gallois, Université Toulouse III, lucie.forte@univ-tlse3.fr
   • Enrico Michelini, TU Dortmund, enrico.michelini@tu-dortmund.de
   • Stacey Pope, Durham University, stacey.pope@durham.ac.uk
   • Auke Aplowski, University of Magdeburg, auke.aplowski@ovgu.de
   • Loredana Tallarita, “Kore” University, loredana.tallarita@unikore.it

   b. incoming Coordinators and board members (new term after this year’s conference)

   Coordinator: Alessandro Porrovecchio, University of the Littoral Opal Coast, alessandro.porrovecchio@univ-littoral.fr
   • Vice coordinator: Enrico Michelini, TU Dortmund, enrico.michelini@tu-dortmund.de
   Past coordinator: Alessandro Porrovecchio, University of the Littoral Opal Coast, alessandro.porrovecchio@univ-littoral.fr
   PHD/ECR representative: Audrey Gozillon, Université d’Artois, audrey.gozillon@univ-artois.fr
   Board members:
   • Lucie Forté-Gallois, Université Toulouse III, lucie.forte@univ-tlse3.fr
   • Rahsan Inal, Erzincan Binali Yildirim University, rahsan.inal@erzincan.edu.tr
   • Klara Kovacs, University of Debrecen, kovacs.klara@arts.unideb.hu
   • Giovanna Russo, Università di Bologna, giovanna.russo6@unibo.it
   • Nico Bortoletto, University of Teramo, nbortoletto@unite.it
3. Activities:
Please describe all relevant activities of your RN in the past two-year term:

Mid-term conference 2021
In 2021, the network held its mid-term conference at the University of Teramo. For the first time in several years, the midterm conference was organised separately from the EASS, for three reasons:
1. The EASS was held too close to the ESA conference in Barcelona,
2. The midterm conference was held in Italy with the explicit will to collaborate with the nascent Italian society of sociology of sport (AIS-SportPA), which is expected to become a driving force in its constitution.
3. But above all, having seen a significant decrease in membership, a separate midterm was also an opportunity to reinforce the network.
10 panels were held during the midterm conference, that was held in online mode because of the pandemic. 39 papers were presented, 2 keynote speakers (William Gasparini and Nicola Porro) and around 200 participants attended, one practical session of Qi Gong was organised.
The midterm conference was organised in partnership with AIS-SportPA, UISP and SISCC

ESA Conference 2021
In 2021, at the Barcelona conference, RN28 organised 8 sessions, including joint sessions (with RN15 and RN16) and delivered 32 papers. Around 100 participants attended to the RN28 sessions.

Newsletter
RN28 had its own newsletter distributed through a mailing list from 2017 to 2021. As for the content, it provided information on the RN28 members’ last publications, ongoing research projects as well as call for papers. Because of the difficulty to manage this tool, the newsletter has been cancelled in favour of a reinforcement of the social network activities and a more frequent use of collective emails to communicate and share significant events (call for papers, publications, networking opportunities).

Social media
RN28 does not have its own website, however, it has its own Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Publications
The publications of RN28 members were listed in the RN newsletter and will now be shared through the social networks. Some members are very active in this field, publishing not only in their national languages but also in English in the most important sport related journals. Common publications were encouraged and produced.
In particular, a RN28-led special issue has been published, edited by Nico Bortoletto, Enrico Michelini and Alessandro Porrovecchio, with the collaboration of all the board members: the special issue of the Italian Sociological Review «New challenges in sociology of sports and physical activity: economic depressions, migrations, pandemics»: http://www.italiansociologicalreview.com/ojs/index.php?journal=ISR&page=issue&op=view&path%5B%5D=40
Some of the authors that published in this special issue, became members of the RN 28 too.
At the present time, a RN28-led Call for Papers for a special issue of the Contemporary Social Sciences journal, edited again by Nico Bortoletto, Enrico Michelini and Alessandro Porrovecchio, with the collaboration of all the board members, “Social change and sport: the COVID-19 Pandemic and other turning points in modernity”: https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special_issues/social-change-sport-covid-19-pandemic/
One important paper was published through the collaboration between RN28 board members: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2021.615745/full
Collaboration within ESA with other RNs
In the continuity of the previous ESA congresses, RN28 organized joint sessions with other RNs. As for the last congress, with RN15 (Global, Transnational and Cosmopolitan Sociology) and RN16 (RN16 - Sociology of Health and Medicine). Many members of RN28 are active members of other RN too.

Finances
ESA’s funding was 2440 euro. 2000 euro were spent on mid-term conference according to the agreement between ESA and the University of Teramo. 440 euro are currently still in the coffers of the Université du Littoral Cote d'Opale.

Any action to be taken to improve participation of PhD students and early career researchers?
We will discuss with the board members the possibility of organizing a PhD workshop, with a prize for the best presentation or a funding for a publication. The RN28 PHD/ECR representative Audrey Gozillon will organize it.

Any action to be taken to expand membership, especially from countries with overall weaker ESA membership? Also, are there members from outside Europe?
At the present time, there is one member from the Russian Federation and two from Turkey (one is a board member too), while RN28 is overall composed of 36 members. Organizing a PhD workshop will probably encourage early-stage researchers to become members of the RN.
The probable organization of the midterm conference in Debrecen, Hungary, aims to expand the presence in the RN28 to members from Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Any action to be taken to improve opportunities for publication of papers presented at the RN meetings and sessions?
As for the 2019-2021, common publications were encouraged: the already published special issue and the new one are possibilities for the members of the RN28 to exchange their knowledge and issuing cooperative publications.

Any other important activities undertaken by your RN?
Taking advantage of the opportunities unfortunately offered by the health crisis, we intend to organize some periodic webinars.
A research project that brings together several members of the RN28 was filed by Alessandro Porrovecchio and funded by the University of Lille (HYPEM, How do Young People in Europe Move?). Other funding applications were filed, especially brought by Enrico Michelini, but they were not funded.

Any plans for further activities of your RN?
The first discussions within the new RN28 board confirmed the will to organize a PhD workshop, to promote some other common publications and to encourage some research and teaching collaborations among our members through our constant interaction.
With these intentions, we will boost our social media presence to gain more visibility, encourage participation and get new members.

Confidential to the RN Council Chair and ESA’s RN Committee – not placed on the website:
Any comments and suggestions for future work, e.g. improving the collaboration of RN and ESA, policy recommendations or easier ways of organizing the RN sessions at the next ESA Conference?