

Annual report 2020

Organisation

Staff

NISE employs two permanent members of staff, each with an appointment of 0.5 FTE. Prof. dr. Hanno Brand has been employed by ADVN as administrator of the NISE-network since January 1, 2019, bearing responsibility for the daily management of the network and the coordination of all NISE-related activities. As of September 1, 2019, Ms. Eva Bidania Ibargutxi has been employed as coordinator of the NISE-bureau. She conducts all secretarial operations, manages public relations, edits the NISE-website, and assists both in the editing of *Studies on National Movements* and *Studies on Nationalism* as well as the organisation of the scientific gatherings. Ms. Bidania Ibargutxi was on maternal leave between July 8 and October 10, 2020.

External ADVN-employees

NISE can count on the part-time involvement of a number of ADVN-employees for a number of her activities. Financial management is entrusted to ADVN-employee Ms. Elly Broes. The editorial management for the online journal *Studies on National Movements* is entrusted to dr. Kasper Swerts. The formatting of the NISE-Essays is conducted by Ms. Ann Van Gastel, and the maintenance of the NISE-ICT network and server – including hosting the DIANE-database – is entrusted to head archivist Tom Cobbaert. Archivist Sophie Bossaert is responsible for the organisation of the NISE SAC (Structural Archival Care) project.

Network: Institutes

The composition of the network has remained unaltered. As of December 31, 2020, the network was comprised of 39 distinct institutes and 9 individual members out of 24 countries, i.e. Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, North-Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Due to Covid-restrictive measures, trips to possible new members or institutions were impeded.

Composition Board of Directors

As of January 1, 2020, the Executive Board is comprised of: Prof. dr. J. Leerssen (President), Prof. dr. D. Roctus, Prof. dr. em. F.J. Verdoodt, Ms. dr. A. Mares, dr. L. Boeva and Prof. dr. H. Brand and Ms. E. Broes who both represent NISE.

Gatherings/Meetings

Meetings BoD and GA NISE npo

Due to Covid-restrictions, a meeting of the Executive Board took place online on May 20. Points on the agenda included the approval of the annual report 2019, the financial report 2019, the budget for 2020 and the annual programme for 2020. In addition, attention was devoted to modifying the statutes in accordance with the new (Belgian) law on 'micro-npo's'. Attention was also devoted to the way all activities and elements of the daily workings have to take into account possible consequences of the Covid-crisis.

Annual meeting members of the network

Due to Covid-restrictions, the Members Council, scheduled to take place in Santiago de Compostela on May 30, 2020, was cancelled. In addition, the General Assembly representing the network members which convenes annually to approve the annual reports, budgets, and schedule for the next years, could not take place, resulting in the online organisation of the financial justification of the annual reports in May and June, ultimately resulting in the written approval on June 25-26.

Scientific Council

Due to COVID-restrictions, no meetings of the Scientific Council could be held in the previous year. Advice was asked ad hoc and individually via email.

Bilateral meetings

As of March 2020, physical bilateral meetings were replaced by online gatherings and discussions, though current circumstances impeded the regularity of the meetings. Nevertheless, ongoing NISE-matters were discussed with the president of the Executive Board. Online meetings with the relevant parties were organised, in particular when it concerned the organisation of projects or submitting proposals. Consequently, a number of meetings took place with the Coppieters Foundation, the Museum aan de IJzer, members of the SNM-editorial board, members of the SoN-editorial board, peer reviewers and authors of articles and book reviews, as well relevant actors for the organisation of the NISE-Lecture and the upcoming symposiums, members of the Archival Core Group and with LAB-1100 to discuss the maintenance of the DIANE-database infrastructure.

Restructuring

In May 2019, the Members' Council approved the plans for restructuring, which aim to alleviate effectiveness and consolidate the network. It envisioned the formation of a reduced Scientific Council, a renewed composition of the SNM-editorial board, and the formation of an Archival Core Group which aims to enlarge the online accessibility of collections related to national movements and to organise the input of relevant data in the DIANE-database. In addition, the cooperation with the editorial board of SoN (Studies on Nationalism) was incorporated in the new structure as well. Due to their permanent character, these four NISE bodies can be considered as the organisation's 'core groups'. Moreover, NISE aims to form temporary teams which can focus on data-input for DIANE, organise conferences and workshops, or organise project meetings.

In addition, the role of the Members' Council was redefined: as stated in 2019, the approval of the budget, the annual reports and plans were delegated to the General Assembly which, as was the case before, is comprised of representatives of the Members' Council, which has subsequently been rendered primarily advisory.

NISE's daily management is controlled by the Executive Board which convened online once in 2020.

Due to Covid, the implantation of the restructuring was impeded, as the formation of a new Scientific Council has not yet been concluded. By contrast, the new SNM-editorial board could continue its work, and the Archival Core Group has been formed (see *infra*).

The financial structure has remained unaltered. In the past year, the organisation has not relied on a 'pooling of means' (i.e. relying on significant financial contributions from its members). Because Covid impeded the Annual Gathering and concomitant conference, NISE's expenses were greatly reduced, thus rendering the possible use of 'pooling of means' irrelevant.

Projects

Though Covid has impeded NISE's international activities, an intensifying cooperation with the Coppieters Foundations set forth a number of project proposals. First of all, the SAC (Structural Archival Care) project was renewed, although it should be noted that visits to archival institutions abroad proved impossible.

On the occasion of the Flemish politician Maurits Coppieters' 100th birthday, NISE and ADVN were involved in the organisation of an exposition which was housed in the ADVN-buildings between September 4 and November 15 (and could be visited, though restriction were in place). (cfr. <https://advn.be/nl/publiek/publieksmomenten/100ste-verjaardag-van-maurits-coppieters>)

In the autumn of 2020, it became apparent that throughout 2021 NISE would be able to contribute to a number of multi-year projects commissioned by the Coppieters Foundation. By mutual agreement, the following projects were proposed, which will be carried out in cooperation with ADVN:

- Digitalisation and providing open access for the full content of journals of organisations related to national movements in Europe. The first two cases are *Le Peuple Breton*, a monthly journal published by the l'Union Démocratique Bretonne (UDB, Brittany) since 1964, and *Arritti*, published by the Partito di a Nazione Corsa (PNC, Corsica) since 1965. NISE will provide the DIANE-database and its servers to incorporate the data, and will take care of the metadata, and the accessibility and maintenance of the digital files.
- Takeover and expansion of the *Diliname* (Digital Library of National Movements in Europe) project, in particular the takeover and restructuring of the website. The website itself is comprised of digital images and texts from manifestos of national movements in Europe. NISE will provide for its expansion and incorporation into the DIANE-database, will provide translations of the original texts and will provide additional historical information on the texts and movements. The annual budget is estimated at max. 15.000€, and will be a multi-year project.

Research

NISE has a primarily facilitating role in conducting academic research on national movements in Europe. In addition to its DIANE-infrastructure, the network organises yearly conference, workshops, and a yearly NISE-Lecture. Moreover, NISE has a yearly output of academic contributions on national movements in Europe via its publications (i.e. SNM, SoN and the NISE-Essays). Due to Covid-restrictions, all physical gatherings for the year 2020 were cancelled.

Academic publications

Studies on National Movements -SNM

As of November 2019, a new editorial board was formed, comprising prof. dr. Xosé-Manoel Nuñez-Seixas (Santiago de Compostela), prof. dr. Ludger Mees (Bilbao), prof. dr. Joep Leerssen (Amsterdam), dr. Johannes Kroll (Vienna), prof. dr. James Kennedy (Edinburgh), prof. dr. Hanno Brand (Antwerp), and dr. Kasper Swerts (Antwerp). Daily editorial tasks are done by dr. Kasper Swerts, Eva Bidania Ibargutxi, and prof. dr. Hanno Brand.

Using the NISE-network as a starting point, an international network of peer reviewers was formed which would effectuate the process of single blind peer review. Reviewers' reports are centrally gathered and maintained, and sent to the Editorial board for evaluation. The reports themselves are decisive in accepting/rejecting articles for SNM. In addition, a new section for book reviews has been added, and, considering NISE's main priorities, a new section on archives with collections on national movements has proven a logical addition to the journal. Since 2020, SNM is published twice a year.

Due to Covid-restrictions, a physical gathering of the editorial board proved impossible. Consequently, editorial queries and issues were addressed online in order to maintain the continuous publication of the journal. In 2020, volumes 5 and 6 were published, comprised of 10 academic articles, 4 contributions to the 'Archival Section', 4 contributions that had been published online at SoN before, and 4 book reviews.

(cfr. <https://snm.nise.eu/index.php/studies/issue/archive>)

The State of Nationalism – SoN

SoN is an online published series, formed out of a cooperation between NISE, University of East London, University of Toronto, and SPIN: The Study Platform on Interlocking Nationalisms, (University of Amsterdam). SoN functions as a heuristic research tool and provides the research community with both state-of-the-art overviews of relevant topics, as well as an international online bibliography on national movements. NISE provides a yearly stipend of 12.000€ to this project to support the two editors Robert Schertzer (Toronto University), and Eric Woods (London University). SPIN provided a part-time contributor (Stefan Poland, Amsterdam University) who focused on the dissemination of the SoN-website, and the SoN contributions themselves are published in SNM. Due to the limited availability of one of the two editors, the financial contribution for the year 2020 was altered, and since October 2020, S. Poland's tasks have been taken over by NISE-coordinator Eva Bidania-Ibargutxi, who also provides administrative support to the editors.

Because the number of contributions had remained below expectations in 2019, a new agreement on the number of contributions was reached in 2020, stipulating that until the financial agreement was concluded in 2022/2023, the editorial board would publish at least four new contributions each year. In 2020, the following articles were published:

- Nichole Fernández, 'Nation Branding'
<https://stateofnationalism.eu/article/nation-branding/>
- Micheal Skey, 'Nationalism and Media'
<https://stateofnationalism.eu/article/nationalism-and-media/>
- Gal Ariely, 'Nationalism and Globalization'
<https://stateofnationalism.eu/article/nationalism-and-globalization/>

And the following have been published in 2021:

- Harris Mylonas, 'Nation Building'
<https://stateofnationalism.eu/article/nation-building/>
- Eirik Magnus Fuglestad, 'Nationalism and Private Property'
<https://stateofnationalism.eu/article/nationalism-and-private-property/>

NISE Essay Series

NISE, in cooperation with the publisher Peristyle, publishes at least one short monography each year in the form of an essay. It has become commonplace to publish the lectures that are given as the yearly NISE-Lecture as part of the NISE-Essay series. Due to intensive time-consuming work to translate the original French manuscript into English, editing of Essay#6 was only concluded in December 2020, and was published as *Walloon federalism or belgian nationalism? The walloon movement at the end of the First World War* in the spring of 2021. M. Pittock's manuscript for Essay#7 on the historical roots of Scottish nationalism during Brexit was also finalized in December 2020, and will be published in June 2021 as *Scotland and Brexit: the Road to now*.

Conferences, Symposia, and Lectures

Symposia

Europe reframed (Santiago de Compostela)

Due to Covid, the yearly international NISE-symposium, planned to take place in Santiago de Compostela on May 28, on the theme of "*Europe reframed: regionalisms, sub-state nationalisms and the redrawing of state borders in the interwar period*", was first postponed to October 2020, and afterwards postponed to May 2021 on the condition that it will take place online. The organisation of the symposium consists of a cooperation between NISE, the Spanish *Consello da Cultura Galega* and the Italian *Nazioni e Regioni*. The joint call-for-papers resulted in two keynote speakers and 12 contributions from authors from Italy, Spain, Slovakia, Albania, Poland, Germany, Netherlands, Flanders, England, and France (all authors have agreed to take part in the online conference on May 28, 2021). To limit any possible delays in publication, the authors were asked (and if they agreed) to already submit their revised articles, so as to publish them, after the process of peer review, in the following volume (#7) of SNM (June 2021).

Shared memories (Ohrid, North Macedonia)

At the request of the Institut for National History [Институт за национална историја] (Skopje, North-Macedonia), NISE was a co-organiser of the international conference "*Shared Memories and National Movements in Modern Europe*". Representing NISE, Hanno Brand was part of the scientific committee that set up the call for papers and evaluated the submitted proposals. The conference was scheduled to take place in Ohrid, North-Macedonia on 25-27 June. Due to combatting Covid, the North-Macedonian government withdrew its allocated subsidy, ultimately resulting in the conference's cancellation in April 2020. (cfr. <http://www.nise.eu/call-for-papers-shared-memories-and-national-movements-in-modern-europe-deadline-30-november>)

National movements and media (Antwerp-Edinburgh)

In cooperation with NISE, ASEN (Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism) would organise its annual conference in Antwerp in May 2021 on *National movements and media*. The conference spans a number of days, with normally over 150 lectures given by renowned and upcoming researchers, and MA students. To acquire the necessary space to host the conference, a

further cooperation was established with University of Antwerp and Ghent University. Continuing Covid-restrictions however made it apparent that organising such a large-scale conference was unfeasible, and in accordance with the ASEN-board, it was decided to postpone the conference to May 2022.

National forgetting and memory (Museum aan de IJzer, Diksmuide, Belgium)

As of November 2020, NISE (as 'lead partner') was involved in the organisation of the international online conference on *National forgetting and memory* which took place on March 11, 2021. The organisation was formed out of a cooperation between the Museum at the Yzer, NISE, and CEGESOMA, and the conference itself comprised of 3 keynote speakers, and 12 contributions from speakers across Europe and North America. It is planned to publish the contributions (following the blind peer review process) in SNM, and the keynote lectures will be translated into Dutch and published in cooperation with the museum.

Workshops

Due to Covid-restrictions, no workshops were organised.

NISE-lecture

The yearly NISE-lecture devotes attention to the historicity of contemporaneous national movements (see programme NISE-Lecture). Because Brexit-negotiations were drawing to a close, and Scottish national sentiments flaring up (and garnishing plenty of media attention), the 7th NISE-Lecture was given by the Scottish linguist and renowned researcher prof. dr. Murray Pittock (Glasgow University) on the topic of Scottish nationalism. (cfr. <https://www.nise.eu/niselecture-follow-up-of-the-event/>). Due to Covid-restrictions, the physical gathering which would take place in the Erfgoedzaal of the Hendrik Conscience Library in Antwerp on November 6, was replaced by a webinar. The online lecture drew a crowd of 62 participants from 10 countries, i.e. Belgium, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, Denmark, France, Italy, Hungary, Poland, and Russia. Publishing the lecture on the NISE-website afterwards resulted in a couple of hundred more views from a number of different countries, illustrating how the NISE-Lecture was now more than ever able to draw in an international crowd. Consequently, a decision was made to always have a livestream component present at future lectures, and publish the lecture on the NISE-website afterwards. The text will be part of the NISE-Essay series as #7, and will be published as *Scotland and Brexit: the Road to Now* in June 2021.

Cooperation with archival institutes

Improvement of the cooperation between archives that house relevant collections for research on national movements is one of NISE's key tasks. During the Annual Gathering in Amsterdam on September 19, 2018, it was decided to form an Archival Core Group that could coordinate and structure all activities related to digital archival heritage. Fundamental was the composition of an international archival guide, next to archival assistance (via a manual, helpdesk, and forum) and the formation of a digital depot based on the collections of national movements incorporated in the DIANE-structure. In the summer of 2020, the following institutes had joined the ACG: Tresoar (Leeuwarden, Netherlands); Herder Institut für historische Ostmitteleuropa Forschung (Marburg, Germany), ICARUS (Vienna, Austria), Centre de Recherche Bretonne en Celtique (Brest, France), Scottish Political Archive (Sterling, UK), Welsh Political Archive (Aberystwyth, UK) and ADVN (Antwerp, Belgium). A first physical gathering was planned for August 31, 2020, but had to be postponed due to Covid-restrictions. An online meeting was considered unfeasible, as the gathering would mainly focus on the organisation of data-input for the DIANE-database, and the

sorting out mutual cooperation on a number of projects. The planned inclusion of a number of articles on the institutes and their collections in SNM's 'Archival Section' however did proceed (see supra).

Data Management

Databank-Infrastructure: DIANE

The 2019 contract with LAB1100 for the maintenance of DIANE (Digital Infrastructure for the Analysis of National movements in Europe) on their servers and adaptation of the DIANA-infrastructure was renewed, implying a split of the costs between ADVN and NISE. New accounts were created for external users.

In the 2019 Annual Report it was stated that DIANE would be used to organise the data-input of collections on national movements via the aforementioned Archival Core Group. Due to Covid-restrictions, training- and info sessions could not be organised, thereby impeding the data-input on this specific topic.

Public Relations

NISE has its own website (www.nise.eu) which was significantly renewed in 2019, functioning as an important means of communication for NISE. Since September 2019, Ms. Eva Bidania Ibargutxi is in charge of the website. Thanks to the relaunch of the website, and a consistent stream of NISE-related posts on Facebook and Twitter, it has become possible to access a wide network of both the Flemish as well as the international heritage community. This is further underscored by the quarterly Newsletter, which, it has been observed, is now also circulated beyond the immediate NISE-network. The NISE-activities are also mentioned in the ADVN-Newsletter.

Hanno Brand
NISE administrator

Translation of the Dutch original text: dr. Kasper Swerts.

BUDGET CONTROL 2020

euro

REVENUES		31/12/20	saldo
Contributions			
Member contributions	5 000,00	0,00	-5000,00
Other contributions	p.m.	0,00	0,00
Subtotal contributions	5 000,00	0,00	-5000,00
Grants			
Annual ADVN grant	35 000,00	35 000,00	0,00
Subtotal grants	35 000,00	35 000,00	0,00
Sales			
Publication NISE Essay / Chantal Kesteloot	p.m. [ADV N]	0,00	0,00
Publication NISE Essay / Xosé Nuñez Seixas	p.m. [ADV N]	0,00	0,00
Other	0,00	0,00	0,00
Subtotal sales	0,00	0,00	0,00
Projects			
Archival awareness actions	2 500,00	0,00	-2500,00
Subtotal projects	2 500,00	0,00	-2500,00
Equity Capital			
Equity transfer	7 000,00	0,00	-7000,00
Subtotal equity capital	7 000,00	0,00	-7000,00
Recuperations			
Restitution	p.m.	187,51	187,51
Subtotal recuperations	p.m.	187,51	187,51
Equity gains			
Intrests	p.m.	0,00	0,00
Subtotal equity gains	p.m.	0,00	0,00
TOTAL REVENUES	49 500,00	35 187,51	-14312,49

BUDGET CONTROL 2020

euro

EXPENSES				
		31/12/20	saldo	
Organisation				
Coordination and administration	2 500,00	1978,97	-521,03	
Annual Gathering	15 500,00	0,00	-15500,00	
Scientific Core Group	1 000,00	0,00	-1000,00	
Archival Core Group	750,00	0,00	-750,00	
SNM editorial board	1 000,00	0,00	-1000,00	
Prospecting	3 500,00	0,00	-3500,00	
Other [2019]	-	201,47	201,47	
Subtotal organisation	24 250,00	2180,44	-22069,56	
ICT management				
ICT management	6 300,00	5857,45	-442,55	
Subtotal ICT management	6 300,00	5857,45	-442,55	
Research				
State of Nationalism (SoN)	12 500,00	0,00	-12500,00	
Conference Shared memories	2 250,00	0,00	-2250,00	
Workshop Imagology [2019]	-	39,60	39,60	
Subtotal research	14 750,00	39,60	-14710,40	
Valorisation				
NISELecture 7 [2019]	-	136,00	136,00	
NISELecture 8	1 700,00	0,00	-1700,00	
Publications	p.m. [ADV]	0,00	0,00	
Archival awareness actions	2 500,00	0,00	-2500,00	
Studies on National Movements (SNM) [2019]	-	39,90	39,90	
Subtotal valorisation	4 200,00	175,90	-4024,10	
Other expenses				
Other expenses	p.m.	0,00	0,00	
Subtotal other expenses	p.m.	0,00	0,00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		49 500,00	8253,39	-41246,61
REVENUES				
	49 500,00	35 187,51	-14312,49	
- EXPENSES		49 500,00	8253,39	-41246,61
BALANCE	0,00	26934,12	26934,12	