

Secretary's Report
 Executive Meeting
 January 2024

1. Membership numbers have picked up again, following the steep decline we observed last June. There are a few factors likely behind this. The first was a campaign targeted at lapsed members, which led to at least 20 renewals. Another reason are the conditionality clauses now inscribed in most of our programs, which require applicants/grantees to be HES members. Finally, the overall fluctuation in 2023 may be partially explained by the change from calendar-year to 365-day memberships, which may cause some renewals to now come only later in the year. But our membership numbers are still lower when compared to pre-covid years. The Vancouver conference, which turned out to be smaller than expected, provides at least partial explanation.

Year	Conference Location	End-of-May Membership	Year-End Membership
2015	Michigan State	?	229
2016	Duke	186	290*
2017	Toronto	197	202
2018	Chicago	266	284
2019	New York	247	265
2020	Virtual	219	223
2021	Utrecht (Virtual)	188	263
2022	Minneapolis	270	276
2023	Vancouver	196	237

* 290 is likely an overestimate as this was the year that we switched from CUP to managing membership through our own website. Several shadow accounts were created to test aspects of the website.

2. The ad hoc Outreach Committee met once, in Sep 27, to discuss strategies to improve our membership numbers. We decided to use the new Growth and Outreach Fund as an instrument to approach societies in neighboring fields and encourage them to consider jointly sponsored initiatives, preferably connected to our annual conference. Once the Santiago call for papers was officially released, letters were sent to a long list of societies we have identified as targets for institutional collaboration. In the coming weeks, we will also reach out to other societies in the history of economics to start a conversation about how to strengthen our collaborative ties.
3. Following a decision made during our last Executive Meeting, we launched the HES Google Admin space last August. This is a multi-instrument platform comprising secure file storage and sharing tools, institutional email addresses, and videoconferencing technology, among others. This was a major step forward in the evolution of our office management system, which will help increase transparency and efficiency in the handling of information pertaining to the Society. Even better, it came at no cost to HES, through the non-profit package offered by Google.

4. The HES website is currently going through a comprehensive technical revision, which will include updating many important plugins and refreshing the website theme, with accompanying design and layout adjustments. As part of this revision, we will create a new user section where documents can be regularly shared with the membership at large. This is another initiative designed to improve our governance and increase transparency. We expect the revised website to be launched later in January.
5. We received 24 nominations for the Spengler Prize by the December 31 deadline, up from 21 nominations last year. As usual, the list of nominees covers a wide array of periods, topics, and approaches, demonstrating the vitality of research in the field.
6. The HES Executive Meeting in Santiago is tentatively scheduled for Sunday July 14, 2024, 10am to 4pm.