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EARMA Annual Conference and General Assembly 2014, Tallinn, Estonia

Hopefully, it has not escaped any EARMA member that the 2014 Annual Conference in Tallinn, Estonia is rapidly approaching and will begin on Sunday, June 29th. Registration is now closed, and the number of registered participants is bigger than any conference in the past many years, and all the conditions are there for a great event.

Registration

The conference organizers have circulated an excellent practical guide to Tallinn and the conference. If you have not received a copy, please contact the [conference organizers](#).

The registration desk is situated in Tallinn University Astra building, first floor and will be open on June 29 from 15:00-18:00 and June 30 from 8:30-9:30. The information desk is situated in Tallinn University Astra building, first floor and will be open every day until 18:30.

The address to the Astra Building is:

Tallinn University
Narva road 29
10120 Tallinn, Estonia

General Assembly, 1 July 2014

The documents for the General Assembly, to be held on 1 July 2014, 17:00 – 18:00 in Tallinn in **Room A-002** are [available at EARMA's website](#) where it can be downloaded as a PDF document.

Please note that very few have declared an interest in becoming members of EARMA's Working Groups, and for this reason, we encourage EARMA members to apply up until June 30th. Submit your application – see details in the GA documents – to secretary@earma.org.

EARMA publications; newsletter and magazine

As you may have noticed, EARMA has experimented with communications during the past year. The conclusion is that a PDF file available for download at the website is the form that **newsletters** will have. The PDF file is not attached to the e-mail announcing it, because attachments to mass mails are known to cause problems on certain operating systems and e-mail clients.

We aim to publish one issue per month, and the newsletter is intended for short communications. All members are encouraged to contribute material to [the newsletter editor](#), who will also be happy to answer questions regarding the newsletter.

The **LINK Magazine** is presently undergoing a design update, and will be published twice per year; one conference issue published immediately *after* EARMA's annual conferences (see below) and one thematic issue at the end of the year. This year's theme will celebrate the association's 20th anniversary.

The LINK Magazine conference issue; what's going on?

EARMA's magazine, LINK, has always published a special conference issue, and this year will be no exception. However, this year's conference issue will be published *after* the conference, not before. The 2014 LINK Conference issue will provide a summary of the conference, rich in content that we (EARMA's Board) believe is of interest to all members.

The reason for this experiment is the realization that no systematic documentation exists of EARMA's Annual Conferences. In most cases, the conference websites go inactive after a couple of years, and the information about the conferences – presentations and photos, outcome of sessions, workshops, general assembly, number of participants, and social events – is lost to the association and the members. This is unfortunate, but the solution is obvious:

With a “post-conference” LINK issue, EARMA will be able to provide a comprehensive summary of the results of each conference, not just the presentations, and delegates will be able to re-live and enrich their conference experience. Those members that are not able to participate will get an overview and feeling of the event – something that has not been provided previously – and maybe even an argument to convince their institution that they should participate next time.

We hope that this will turn out to be an improvement for all members, although we realize that it is a break with tradition, and thus potentially controversial. Once the conference LINK Magazine issue is published, we will make a brief survey about how this change was perceived by you, the members.

Submit your best conference photos to LINK!

The best photos from the conference will be selected for inclusion in the 2014 Conference LINK Magazine issue and EARMA's website. You are invited to submit your 5 best conference photos from the EARMA's 2014 Annual Conference in Tallinn via [e-mail to the LINK Magazine editor](#) before 10 July 2014. Photos will be selected based on how well they reflect the energy and spirit of the conference, and may be from sessions, exhibition, breaks between sessions, social events, or any motif that has a connection to the conference.

Partner associations' annual meetings

Below are brief reports from two recently held annual meetings of EARMA's partner associations, the British ARMA and Danish DARMA:

ARMA Annual Conference 2014

Focusing on the theme "Learning from the past; preparing for the future", ARMA's Annual Conference 2014 took place 9th to 11th June in Blackpool, and gathered 540 delegates that attended a well-organised and successful meeting. Among the highlights were inspired keynote presentations from Andrew Miller, MP and Chair of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, and from Professor Dame Judith Rees, President of the Royal Geographical Society.

Conference sessions spanned a wide spectrum of subjects, following ARMA's Professional Development categories. The programme and presentations can be downloaded from [ARMA's Annual Conference 2014 web pages](#).

Other highlights were the Gala Dinner, where Dr. David Langley, Bristol University received the first Carter Award, and the unforgettable drinks reception on board Blackpool's historical trams, where delegates could enjoy refreshments while riding trams shaped like gunboats or steam trains.

ARMA's Annual Conference 2015 will take place in Brighton.

DARMA Annual Meeting 2014

The Danish Association of Research Managers and Administrators (DARMA) held its Annual Meeting at Copenhagen Business School in Copenhagen, Denmark on 3rd and 4th June attended by c. 125 delegates, including international guests. This was the first time that DARMA's Annual Meeting spanned 2 days and had parallel sessions, and the entire meeting was held in English.

The programme included a keynote presentation from Peder Olesen Larsen, now retired. Among Olesen Larsen's many distinctions is to have been the founder and first director of the Danish National Research Foundation, and he gave a historical overview of the development of Danish research funding from a unique first-person perspective. Presentations spanned a wide spectrum of topics with both national and international focus.

At the conference, DARMA launched 14 Special Interest Groups (in Danish: *ERFA-grupper*) on themes spanning the entire field of research support, e.g. impact, EU excellence, research support at small institutions and many other. DARMA's website is under reconstruction, but when the new site is launched in July, presentations and information about the meeting will be made available.

Announcement



2nd European University Association (EUA) Funding Forum: Strategies for efficient funding of universities

A biannual event, the Funding Forum is a unique, inclusive platform open to all higher education funding stakeholders – university leaders and managers, researchers, students, public authorities, public and private funders & partners. This year's Forum, which is the second, focuses on designing strategies for efficient and sustainable funding of higher education in Europe and will be held at the University of Bergamo in Italy, 9-10 October 2014.

Participants of the Funding Forum will:

- Receive the latest analysis of the financial status of Europe's university sector
- Get an overview of the latest trends in funding models in Europe
- Explore the interaction between funding models and the re-structuring of the higher education landscape in different European countries
- Examine the consequences of integrating performance-related criteria in funding models
- Share experiences in managing institutional mergers
- Learn how European-level policy objectives are embedded in the different streams of European funding available to universities.

The full program and registration for the event are available at the [EUA Funding Forum web pages...](#)