

## **Most important decisions taken by the Board of ESSE during its meeting in Braga, Portugal, 27 – 28 August 2015**

1. The Board of ESSE unanimously re-elected the current ESSE President, Professor Liliane Louvel, for another term of three years.
  2. The Board of ESSE unanimously elected Professor Adrian Radu as the new Editor of *The European English Messenger* for a term of three years. Following last year's decision to change the newsletter's format from printed to electronic, the Board of ESSE decided to split its contents between a journal on the one hand and a blog on the other and to open its pages to academic and professional papers. The journal will be open-access after the code-protected access in the first year after publication.
  3. The Board of ESSE decided to develop an "ESSE Research and Support Project" which is destined to help young researchers. The Board decided to:
    - increase the amount of money available for the Bursaries (from €12,000 to €15,000)
    - increase the prize money for the Book Award for Junior scholars to €1,500
    - hold the PhD sessions every year instead of every two years
    - publish a selection of papers by PhD students in *The European English Messenger*
    - publish a selection of Bursary reports in *The European English Messenger*
    - grant additional fee waivers for conference attendance at ESSE-13 to young researchers who are doctoral students or who have finished their PhD thesis after 1 January 2012 and have no funding, are unemployed or receive a low income.
    - continue with the book grants
- In this way ESSE is making a European statement in favour of promising young researchers in the Humanities.
4. The Board of ESSE accepted the bid of Brno, the Czech Republic, as the venue of ESSE-14 conference in 2018.
  5. The Board of ESSE decided to create a List of academic journals in the field of English studies published in each ESSE member association. The list will appear on the ESSE webpage. In this way, these academic journals, and consequently the research carried out in national associations, will be granted more international publicity and greater visibility.
  6. The Board of ESSE appointed a Nominations Committee for the election of ESSE Secretary and ESSE Treasurer. The deadline for the submission of applications is **1 June 2016**.
  7. The Board of ESSE appointed a Bursary Committee for 2016. The deadline for the submission of applications is **1 March 2016**.
  8. The Board of ESSE decided to start a new column on the ESSE website dedicated to the European special interest groups established by ESSE members.
  9. The Board of ESSE decided to join the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures (FILLM). FILLM is UNESCO's ceiling organization for international associations for scholarship and research in languages and literatures world-wide.
  10. The Board of ESSE appointed the evaluation committees for the ESSE Book Awards 2016.
  11. The Board of ESSE decided to rename the research field of Cultural studies in English into Cultural and Area Studies in English. The new name should be used in all relevant announcements.