

Written by Alexandra Gratl, Riikka Tulamo and Vincent Jongkind

Approved by EVST Council at council meeting, 26 September 2018, Valencia.

Updated by ESVS office May 2020.

1. THE ORGANISATION

1.1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The European Vascular Surgeons in Training (EVST) form a chapter within the European Society of Vascular Surgery (ESVS). The EVST represents European trainees in vascular surgery. The EVST originates from the European Association of Vascular Surgeons in Training (EAVST) which was founded in September 1994.

1.2. AIM OF THE EVST

The aim of the EVST is to promote knowledge and skills for trainees in vascular surgery. The EVST activities and projects may focus primarily on European trainees and European countries, however the reach of the EVST includes trainees from countries outside of Europe. The EVST aims to improve the networking between vascular surgery trainees, to allow opportunities for them to connect with one another, enabling them to share experiences in different educational strategies, and to develop educational activities in collaboration with the ESVS and its Academy.

The means to reach these aims in order to improve European training in vascular surgery are to organise workshops and sessions in meetings (in particular the ESVS Annual Meeting) adapted to the interests of trainees in vascular surgery, to use the social media and to represent the trainee opinion within but also outside of the ESVS.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE EVST

The ESVS provides a special membership fee for trainees (European Trainee and Non-European Trainee membership of the Society) and accordingly collects the member fees. Trainee membership is available for the duration of an individual's training period, proof of trainee status is required for each year of a trainee membership subscription. After completion of training, such as by passing the Fellow of European Board of Vascular Surgery examination, by national examination or otherwise, EVST members will advance to full members. Trainee members are invited to participate in the meetings run by the ESVS, including the scientific sessions and workshops. The members also receive online access to the Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and access to the restricted part of the ESVS website, where educational material is provided by the ESVS and/or the EVST.

3. THE COUNCIL

3.1 COMPOSITION

The Council is the decision-making body of the EVST. Any European country with at least trainee ten members is invited to nominate a Councillor to represent the interests of that country. If a country has less than 20 trainees in vascular surgery, and if half of them are members of the EVST, they can also elect a Councillor. The election of a new Councillor is announced by the Secretary of the EVST and online election is organised by the EVST or the society manager. The term of a Councillor is three years and starts on the 1st of September. Councillors may not be re-elected. At the end of this period, the Councillor may become an Honorary Councillor and could attend council meetings for one more year. He or she would not have voting rights, but could help and advise the council and especially the new national representative

3.2 MEETINGS

The EVST Council meets two to three times a year to discuss ongoing or new projects, to organise educational, scientific and socialising events. The Annual Meeting of the ESVS is the most important meeting, during which the EVST gets the opportunity to actively participate in the meeting, including the organisation of scientific and educational sessions. During the Annual Meeting of the ESVS an EVST council meeting is held. One or two additional council meetings are held throughout the year, preferably at a major congress or symposium. If a Councillor is not able to attend a meeting, the Secretary should be informed, and a substitute should be nominated by the absenting Councillor. If a Councillor is absent from three consecutive meetings, he or she will be asked to resign, and a new national representative will be elected in the same way as described above. Event changing decisions are made by the consensus of the Council and a presence of at least 50% of Councilors is mandatory to provide decision-making power within the council.

3.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

Every Councillor has the responsibility to represent the interests of the trainees in vascular surgery from his or her country in the best way possible. He or she also has the responsibility to represent the EVST in their country and to optimise membership numbers in his or her country. Every Councillor will actively participate in council meetings and will initiate or participate in EVST initiatives to improve training of vascular surgeons in Europe.

The Council may decide to also include non-European countries in the Council when there are more than ten EVST members in that country. The decision to do so was mostly recently voted against in April 2019. In special circumstances, one Councillor may represent two or more countries with low number of EVST members.

If a Councillor wants to step back from his position before the end of the three-year time, the Secretary should be informed about the reason and an election for a new Councillor will be arranged.

4. THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF THE EVST

4.1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the EVST consists of the Secretary, the Past Secretary (if desired) and three officers who are elected by the Council. The term of participating in the Executive Committee lasts three years. Any EVST member may apply for one of the posts in the Executive Committee. Also, EVST members at the end of their training are invited to apply because experience as a trainee and/ or within the EVST can be of benefit. This entails that the officers will be in function also after completion of their training.

4.2. SECRETARY

The EVST Council is led by the Secretary who is elected by the Councillors. The EVST council meetings and the agenda for these meetings are supervised by the Secretary. The Secretary represents the interests of the EVST within the ESVS. The Secretary is part of the ESVS executive committee and has a vote in the ESVS Council.

The term of the Secretary is three years, starts with the 1st of September and any EVST member may apply for this position. An EVST SOP exists which outlines the detailed application and election procedure. The Executive Committee will select three candidates who will be invited to present themselves to the Council with a 10-minute presentation at the Charing Cross meeting in London. Based on these presentations the Council will elect the new Secretary.

4.3. PAST SECRETARY

The Past Secretary may remain within the EVST Council as member of the Executive Committee for one additional year immediately following their term. Within this time period, he or she is allowed to join the meetings of the EVST and is also allowed to vote. He or she is not allowed to re-apply for the position of Secretary.

4.4. ESVS ACADEMY REPRESENTATIVE

To represent the interests of the EVST within the Academy, a representative is elected by the Councillors. The term is three years and starts at the closure of the Annual Meeting. Any European EVST member can apply for this role. This representative is asked to join the meetings of the Academy as well as the meetings of EVST and his or her responsibility is to provide interworking between the Academy and the EVST.

4.5. UEMS (EUROPEAN UNION OF MEDICAL SPECIALITIES) REPRESENTATIVE

To represent the interests of the EVST within the UEMS, a representative is elected by the Councillors. The term is three years and starts with the 1st of September. Any European EVST member can apply for this role. This representative is asked to join the meetings of the UEMS as well as the meetings of EVST and his or her responsibility is to provide interworking between the UEMS and the EVST.

4.6. ESVS ANNUAL PROGRAMME COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

The ESVS annual Programme Committee will organise the ESVS annual meeting. The EVST representative is part of this committee for a three-year term, starting on 1st December, and any EVST member may apply for this position. The committee will meet several times a year to organise the meeting. The EVST representative will have close contact with the EVST Secretary and Council on the developments in the committee.

4.7 OTHER COMMITTEES

As of 2020, there is a representative from EVST present in the ESVS e-Committee. Any EVST member may apply and the term runs for three years, starting on 1st September. There is also an EVST representative within each Guidelines Writing Committee. Any EVST member may apply for this role and the individual is part of the committee for the duration of the writing procedure. The representatives mentioned in section 4.7 do not form part of the EVST Executive Committee.

5. FINANCES

The finances of the EVST are dependent on the global finances of the ESVS. Each year the EVST must submit in a budget proposal to ESVS in order to request financial support.

5.1 GRANT

There is no financial compensation for EVST Councillors. EVST Councilors are invited to apply for a grant of maximum €350 covering travel costs to the Annual Meeting of the ESVS.