

Charity registration number 1006263

**BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES**  
**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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<b>Trustees</b>	Prof. Matthias Neumann Dr Zoe Knox Dr Jan Gryta Dr Olena Palko Dr Victoria Hudson Prof Katharine Hodgson	(Appointed 1 April 2023) (Appointed 1 April 2023)
<b>Charity number</b>	1006263	
<b>Principal address</b>	Director of Employability School of History University of East Anglia Norwich Research Park Norwich NR4 7TJ	
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Law & Co Pool House, Arran Close 106 Birmingham Road Great Barr Birmingham B43 7AD	

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# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## REPORT

### ***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023***

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The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", (FRS102) effective 1 January 2019.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The charity's objects are to advance education for the public benefit in the United Kingdom in the humanities and in the social sciences as they relate to the former Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe.

The executive committee devotes much of its time to overseeing the regular activities of BASEES. These include organising the annual conference; supporting the BASEES study groups; providing small grants through our Research & Development Committee to support the research of postgraduate members, and to help others organise small conferences; and providing news and information to members through our website, the newsletter and our new BASEES e-mail list.

Members of the BASEES committee attend meetings organised by the Research Councils, by the Academy of Social Sciences, the British Academy, and by other national professional and governmental organisations at which they represent the views of their members, lobby on behalf of them and report back to them on developments taking place at a national level. We also take up particular issues that our members raise with us and pursue them with their institutions, or with the relevant government or national body as appropriate. We are an officially recognised nominating organisation for the Academy of Social Sciences and for the HEFCE Research Excellence Framework and carry out our duties in this capacity as and when required. We are sometimes called upon to represent the interests of British scholars when they encounter problems or issues relating to their research within the countries which our organisation considers as being within its remit. This will involve making representations to the consulate, the embassy or other national government offices of the country concerned.

BASEES trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

#### *Public benefit*

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### **Achievements and performance**

##### *Significant activities and achievements against objectives*

BASEES activities in 2023 gained momentum across the year to eventually surpass pre-pandemic levels. The Trustees are delighted at the increase in the volume of research activities and scholarly pursuits that the charity supports. An increase in the number of members has enabled BASEES to allocate additional funds to support its objectives.

The principal activities of the association during 2023 included the following:

- Holding the annual conference, which took place at the University of Glasgow from 31 March to 2 April 2023. It was a huge success as researchers and students from across the UK and around the world gathered together. The option of presenting remotely allowed scholars abroad without funds to travel to present their research to new audiences.
- Continuing to condemn Russian aggression and offering support for Ukrainian colleagues and others in the region targeted for opposing the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- Introducing a number of initiatives to support Ukrainian researchers, most notably a non-residential fellowship scheme for scholars in the humanities and social sciences based in Ukraine. Eight fellowships were awarded to support their intellectual activities. In addition to receiving stipends, the recipients were given BASEES membership and invited to showcase their research in various forums, including a dedicated seminar series.
- Supporting PhD students and Early Career Researchers (ECRs) by holding online events to guide them with research projects. This remains particularly important given the challenges of conducting research on the region and the need to rethink established approaches.
- Rewarding and encouraging scholarship in the area through a range of prizes, including the Alexander Nove Prize, George Blazyca Prize, Women's Forum prizes, and the Postgraduate Prizes.
- Supporting the BASEES Women's Forum in its efforts to recognise and reward scholarship on women and gender and encourage and support women in the field.
- Continuing support for a wide range of research projects through Research and Development funding. This included funding or part-funding research events (such as conference attendance) and activities (such as fieldwork and archival trips) and was particularly focused on supporting postgraduate research.
- Maintaining input into and membership of a number of learned societies, among them the International Council for Central and East European Studies and the Academy of Social Sciences. Members of the Executive Committee represented BASEES at meetings, conferences, and congresses.
- Facilitating scholarly exchange through the support of BASEES Study Groups. A wide range of Study Groups advance research on dedicated areas, and these have become very active since the pandemic.
- Producing a quarterly newsletter and frequent Bulletins designed to keep members informed of important developments in Russian and East European studies in the UK and continental Europe, as well as providing feedback from the various policy and other forums with which the Association was engaged during the year.
- Continuing engagement with research councils, the British Academy and other organisations that represent and support the humanities and social sciences in the UK.
- Planning the annual conference for 2024, to be held in Cambridge.

#### **Financial review**

BASEES holds a cash reserve in order to allow it to take advantage of strategic opportunities as they arise (e.g. co-hosting conferences, under-writing certain activities where the return is uncertain, etc). The reserve also allows the organisation to be confident that it could fund an unexpected deficit on any of its activities (for example a deficit on the annual conference). The uneven pattern of expenditure makes it difficult to identify a proper level of cash reserves, but at the moment the organisation seeks to hold a reserve of between £50,000 and £75,000 at the end of each financial year, although this figure is reviewed annually

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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### *Reserves policy*

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

### *Major risks*

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity was established on 27 November 1991.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Prof. Matthias Neumann

Dr Zoe Knox

Dr Ben Phillips (Resigned 1 April 2023)

Dr Jan Gryta

Dr Olena Palko

Dr Victoria Hudson (Appointed 1 April 2023)

Prof Katharine Hodgson (Appointed 1 April 2023)

### *Recruitment and appointment of trustees*

As the leading Learned Society in the UK concerned with the study of Russia and Eastern Europe, BASEES has a high profile which enables it to attract leading figures to serve as trustees. The Society also makes a deliberate attempt to recruit younger scholars in order to help them develop their careers and ensure that BASEES trustees have a wide range of experiences and perspectives. The Society advertises vacancies in its Newsletter and Bulletin. Existing members of the Committee also approach possible trustees directly where they are believed to have particular aptitudes or expertise. New trustees are provided with a briefing about their responsibilities.

### *Organisational structure*

Trustees meet as a Committee twice a year at the Annual Conference (in April) and at a meeting in London. They review reports from office holders (President, Treasurer, etc). The BASEES Secretary asks in advance for any agenda items deemed of particular importance by trustees. Both the April and November meetings typically consider both operational and policy issues (in the latter case regarding such issues as international cooperation and liaison work with government agencies and similar bodies). A smaller group meets regularly (usually virtually) to discuss application for research support (the results are then communicated to the Treasurer who authorised payment when the relevant activity has taken place). Smaller groups of trustees also meet from time to time to deal with particular issues ranging from Conference organisation through to financial planning (any conclusions or developments being outlined in the reports noted earlier). The BASEES AGM is held at the April Conference. Members attending the Conference are asked to approve the accounts and the appointment of auditors as well as being given an opportunity to comment on the reports of office-holders. They are also encouraged to raise any issues of interest and concern. Both the Bulletin and the Newsletter are used to 'cascade out' information to the wider membership of BASEES.

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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The report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

*K.M. Hodgson*

Prof Katharine Hodgson  
Trustee

Date: *24/10/24*

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of British Association of Slavonic and East European Studies (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

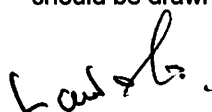
Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

  
Law & Co

Pool House, Arran Close  
106 Birmingham Road  
Great Barr  
B43 7AD  
Birmingham

Dated: 25/10/24

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	3	21,158	18,408
Charitable activities	4	13,314	10,018
Investments	5	308	52
<b>Total income</b>		<u>34,780</u>	<u>28,478</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable activities	6	30,522	26,384
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>30,522</u>	<u>26,384</u>
<b>Net income and movement in funds</b>		<u>4,258</u>	<u>2,094</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>			
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		<u>73,147</u>	<u>71,053</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2023</b>		<u><u>77,405</u></u>	<u><u>73,147</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	11	-		4,391	
Cash at bank and in hand		78,149		69,500	
		<u>78,149</u>		<u>73,891</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	(744)		(744)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			77,405		73,147
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			77,405		73,147
			<u>77,405</u>		<u>73,147</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Unrestricted funds			77,405		73,147
			<u>77,405</u>		<u>73,147</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 24/10/24

*K. M. Hodgson*  
Prof Katharine Hodgson  
Trustee

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Charity information

British Association of Slavonic and East European Studies is a registered Charity. The charity's objective is to advance the education, for the public benefit in the United Kingdom, in the humanities and social sciences as they relate to the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe.

#### 1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### 1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

#### 1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

#### 1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Each member of the Association shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. The subscription for associate members shall be less than the full subscription. Membership may be terminated by a decision of the committee for non-payment of the annual subscription or other good cause.

#### 1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

#### 1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

#### 1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### **Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

#### **Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### **Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

#### 3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £
Book royalties	336	388
Membership fees	20,822	18,020
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

The Association has no restrictions against any of its income and is available to be used for the furtherance of the Society's normal activities.

#### 4 Charitable activities

	Charitable Income Conference 2023 £	Charitable Income Conference 2022 £
Surplus on annual conference	13,314	10,018
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

#### 5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Interest receivable	308	52
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable Expenditure 2023 £	Charitable Expenditure 2022 £
<b>Direct costs</b>		
R&D: Student/conference support	12,292	1,966
Executive committee costs	-	162
R&D: Study groups	3,558	4,353
Prizes	842	1,555
Newsletter	1,400	995
Data protection registration	35	35
Website communications	149	1,488
Executive committee expenses	1,525	2,525
Affiliated associate membership	705	489
Hardship fund - Ukraine	8,000	10,400
Event promotion	438	268
Independent examiner's fees	744	1,488
Postage	-	81
Bank charges	834	513
Sundry expenses	-	66
	<u>30,522</u>	<u>26,384</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>		
Unrestricted funds	<u>30,522</u>	<u>26,384</u>

#### 7 Net movement in funds

	2023 £	2022 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	<u>744</u>	<u>744</u>

#### 8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year, but 3 were reimbursed a total of £1,525 for expenses incurred (2022- 2 were reimbursed £2,525).

#### 9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

#### 10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

#### 11 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Prepayments and accrued income	-	4,391
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

#### 12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	744	744
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

#### 13 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	73,147	34,780	(30,522)	77,405
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Previous year:</b>	<b>At 1 January 2022</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>At 31 December 2022</b>
	£	£	£	£
General funds	71,053	28,478	(26,384)	73,147
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

#### 14 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2022 - none).