

SEH News

The European Board of Herpetological Societies (EBHS)

One of the main aims of *Societas Europaea Herpetologica* (SEH) is to enhance communication and collaborations among herpetologists, and therefore to improve the knowledge and conservation of herpetofauna, especially in Europe. This has been possible through the publication of papers in our journals *Amphibia-Reptilia* and *Herpetology Notes*, through the establishment of task forces, and through the organisation of international congresses. These activities have been supported by multiple members from many European countries. Despite the international inclusiveness of SEH activities, and notwithstanding previously established temporary collaborations with national or regional societies, SEH was still lacking a formal framework to support international partnership. The establishment of such partnerships would be an important step towards making herpetology stronger and facilitating mutual promotion of activities at regional, national and international levels.

To bring herpetology-related actions to the European level, such as for improving conservation policies and obtaining funds, it is essential that SEH achieves better official representation for most countries and of as many herpetologists as possible. Currently, SEH and its conservation committee regularly petition the European Parliament or local governments, in collaboration with the main European NGOs involved in nature conservation, on important policy initiatives, such as the Water Framework Directive and the Common Agricultural Policy (see SEH News in *Amphibia-Reptilia*, 2022, issue 1 for a more complete description). Being able to officially represent national and/or regional societies, SEH would strengthen the position

of herpetologists. Similarly, a formal collaboration of SEH with local societies would promote a dissemination component to mutually advertise societies and their key events, such as congresses, to increase visibility, membership and attendance.

With this in mind, the framework of a European Board of Herpetological Societies (EBHS) was constituted and added to the by-laws of SEH during the last Ordinary General Meeting of SEH held in Milan in September 2019 (see SEH News in *Amphibia-Reptilia*, 2019, issue 4). Both SEH and its partner societies will join in being part of EBHS, with the aim of mutual promotion between SEH and each partner society, then facilitating communication among herpetologists and stimulating all activities related to herpetology. The aim is therefore also to be complementary to other existing European networks, such as the Amphibian Specialist Group, RACE and the Amphibian Red List Authority European Working Group of IUCN which all have their own specificities and objectives. Similarly, links between EBHS and collaborative projects, such as the currently running COST Action PERIAMAR, could mutually promote our respective activities.

The EBHS will be composed by one designated representative from SEH and one designated representative from each partner society. For SEH, the position is currently filled by its President. There is also a second SEH council member acting as substitute of the SEH Co-chair position. The position is currently fulfilled by the SEH General Secretary. Each partner society will have the status of partner member of SEH. This means that the partner society, through its representative or its substitute when the representative is not present, can exercise one vote at the Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) of SEH.

A first preliminary draft of agreement prepared by the SEH council was sent to three herpetological societies to inquire about their interest and the suitability of the planned agreement to their expectation of a bilateral collaboration with SEH. After intense communication, it was concluded that the agreement should be as flexible as possible, logistically feasible, not constraining, and associated to a low membership fee, allowing access to all. A new version of the agreement was thus prepared to address these issues and set rules that will make the project realistic.

In late 2021 and early 2022, a first set of 11 herpetological societies were contacted to officially launch EBHS in 2022. Seven societies already signed the agreement, becoming partner members of SEH: Asociación Herpetológica Española (AHE), Associação Portuguesa de Herpetologia (APH), British Herpetological Society (BHS), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde (DGHT), info fauna – karch (Koordinationsstelle für Amphibien- und Reptilienschutz in der Schweiz), Österreichische Gesellschaft für Herpetologie (OGH), and Societas Herpetologica Italica (SHI). This resulted in the first exchange of information on our societies, summarized hereafter as well as in the SEH website in order to provide to our community a centralized and easy access to the partner European herpetological societies. Updates will be published on a regular basis in SEH News. The next step is to continue contacting herpetological societies to have a broader coverage and representativeness of European Herpetologists. European-based herpetological societies are also welcome to contact directly the SEH representative member of EBHS to join the board.

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Members of the European Board of Herpetological Societies (EBHS)



Societas Europaea Herpetologica

Representative member: Mathieu Denoël, President

Substitute member: Antigoni Kaliontzopoulou, General Secretary

- **Webpage:** <https://www.seh-herpetology.org>
- **Membership information:** <https://www.seh-herpetology.org/become-a-member>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Societas.Europaea.Herpetologica>
- **Journals:** *Amphibia-Reptilia*: 4 issues per year (print and online) and *Herpetology Notes*: Continuous publications (online).
- **Congress:** European Congress of Herpetology (1 every even year, typically between August and October). Next congress: 21st European Congress of Herpetology, Belgrade, 5-9 September 2022.



Asociación Herpetológica Española (AHE)

Representative member: Eva Graciá, President

Substitute member: Íñigo Martínez-Solano, Secretary General

- **Webpage:** <https://herpetologica.es>
- **Membership information:** <https://herpetologica.es/category/acerca-de-ahe/hazte-socio/>

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Asociaci%C3%B3n-Herpetol%C3%B3gica-Espa%C3%B1ola-142144879162720>
- **Journals:** *Basic and Applied Herpetology*: 1 issue per year (print and online) and *Boletín de la Asociación Herpetológica Española*: 2 issues per year (print and online).
- **Congress:** Congreso Luso – Español de Herpetología / Congreso Español de Herpetología (1 congress every two years). Next congress in 2023.



Associação Portuguesa de Herpetologia (APH)

Representative member: Raquel Ribeiro, President of Direction

Substitute member: Neftali Sillero, chairman of the general meeting

- **Webpage:** <https://apherpetologia.wixsite.com/herpetos/>
- **Membership information:** <https://apherpetologia.wixsite.com/herpetos/blank-qrgdg>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/herpetos>
- **Journal:** *Basic and Applied Herpetology*; 1 issue per year (print and online).
- **Congress:** Congresso Luso-Espanhol de Herpetologia (1 congress every two years). Next congress in 2023.



British Herpetological Society (BHS)

Representative member: Mark Hollowell, Chair

- **Webpage:** <https://www.thebhs.org>
- **Membership information:** <https://www.thebhs.org/membership/join-the-bhs>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/The-British-Herpetological-Society-BHS-295241210567422>
- **Journal:** *The Herpetological Journal*: 4 issues per year (online) and *The Herpetological Bulletin*: 4 issues per year (print and online).
- **Congresses:** BHS Annual General Meeting (typically in spring) and The Annual BHS/ARC Joint Scientific Meeting (typically in September).



Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde (DGHT)

Representative member: Markus Monzel, President

Substitute member: Axel Kwet, Managing Director

- **Webpage:** www.dght.de
- **Membership information:** <https://www.dght.de/application-for-membership-english-form>
- **Journals:** *Elaphe*: 6 issues per year; *Salamandra*: 4 issues per year, *Radiata*: 4 issues per year, *Die Eidechse*: 3 issues per year, *Ophidia*: 2 issues per year, *Amphibia*: 2 issues per year, *Sekretär*: 1 issue per

year), *Mertensiella*: published irregularly, 1-2 issues per year.

- **Congress:** Jahrestagung für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde (once a year). Next congress: 28/09-2/10/2022 in Berlin.



info fauna karch – Koordinationsstelle für Amphibien- und Reptilienschutz in der Schweiz

Representative member: Silvia Zumbach, director

Substitute member: Benedikt Schmidt, collaborator

- **Webpage:** www.karch.ch
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/www.karch.ch>
- **Congress:** Herpetokolloquium (once a year: First Saturday in December).



Österreichische Gesellschaft für Herpetologie (ÖGH)

Representative member: Andreas Maletzky, President

Substitute member: Silke Schweiger, Vice-President

- **Webpage:** <https://www.herpetozoa.at>
- **Membership information:** <https://www.herpetozoa.at>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/herpetozoa>

- **Journals:** *Herpetozoa*: continuous publication (online with one annual printed version on demand) and *ÖGH-Aktuell*: 4 issues per year (print).

- **Congresses:** ÖGH-Jahrestagung (once a year), Amphibientage der ÖGH (once a year), Reptilientage der ÖGH (once a year).



Societas Herpetologica Italica (SHI)

Representative member: Lucio Bonato, counselor

Substitute member: Luca Coppari, secretary

- **Webpage:** <http://www-9.unipv.it/webshi/index.html>
- **Membership information:** <http://www-9.unipv.it/webshi/societa/iscrizione.htm>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/255437961162654>
- **Journals:** *Acta Herpetologica*: 2 issues per year (print and online).
- **Congress:** Congresso Nazionale SHI (1 congress every even year, typically in September). Next congress: XIV Congresso Nazionale SHI, 14-18 September 2022.

Updated information on the partner societies can be found on the SEH webpage: <https://www.seh-herpetology.org>