

# Federation of European Philatelic Associations



## **FEPA**

### **The Next Two Years**

# WHAT IS FEPA FOR?

FEPA was set up in 1989:

**'To provide a forum for closer philatelic cooperation throughout Europe'.**

This is still our main purpose. Our activities now fall into four main categories:

**Sharing information**

**Promoting innovation and cooperation**

**Supporting exhibitions**

**Rewarding achievements**

# WHAT HAS FEPA DONE RECENTLY?

FEPA's innovative contributions to European philately have included:

- A Newsletter widely-distributed by e-mail every two weeks.
- Extension of the FEPA NEWS journal to include a wide range of articles on developments in philately and philatelic research.
- Extension of 'narrow theme' to include 2 and 3 frame exhibits.
- Support for the development of the 'Open Philately' concept.
- Award of a new medal for the best philatelic website.

# WHAT HAVE WE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO?

Develop as much cooperation between FEPA Members as we would have liked.

Especially important in relation to use of digital technology in the world of philately.

Some Members are well advanced in this field, but others are not.

# Impact of the digital world on philately.

Digital cyberspace has changed the philatelic world.

In many respects the change has been positive:

- Vastly improved access for collectors to information and markets.
- A completely new platform for meeting and sharing ideas.
- Instant communications and opportunities for innovation to achieve better results at lower cost.

But it has posed a major challenge to the old world of philatelic societies and traditional working practices.

# Declining numbers of societies and members

In 2013 a major FEPA study forecast a rapid decline in numbers of philatelic organisations and members by 2023.

We recently carried out a survey to see what had happened.

The data is incomplete and in some respects it is not comparing like with like.

But the trend is obvious, and dramatic.

As was predicted, the numbers of societies and members have both decreased by around half in the last decade.

# Philatelic Organisations in Europe

## Comparison of statistics for philatelic societies and members 2013 – 2023

(excludes Members for  
whom no data is available)

|                 | Societies |       | Members |        |
|-----------------|-----------|-------|---------|--------|
|                 | 2013      | 2024  | 2013    | 2024   |
| Albania         |           | 1     |         | 120    |
| Armenia         |           | 1     |         | 150    |
| Austria         |           | 205   | 10,600  | 7,720  |
| Belgium         | 280       |       | 10,000  |        |
| Bulgaria        | 142       | 20    | 5,000   | 500    |
| Croatia         | 34        | 16    | 1,200   | 200    |
| Cyprus          | 6         | 1     | 136     | 30     |
| Czech Republic  | 300       | 10    | 7,107   | 3,000  |
| Denmark         | 34        |       | 1,200   |        |
| Finland         | 79        |       | 3,430   |        |
| France          | 630       | 550   | 30,000  | 16,500 |
| Germany         | 1,165     | 782   | 40,289  | 21,000 |
| Greece          | 33        | 13    |         | 600    |
| Hungary         | 250       | 46    | 3,000   | 1,300  |
| Ireland         | 1         | 6     |         | 350    |
| Israel          | 5         | 12    | 920     |        |
| Italy           | 279       | 198   | 13,442  | 6,900  |
| Lebanon         |           | 1     |         | 20     |
| Liechtenstein   | 1         | 1     |         | 90     |
| Luxembourg      | 35        | 1     | 2,300   |        |
| Moldova         |           | 1     |         | 20     |
| Monaco          | 1         | 1     | 100     | 100    |
| Montenegro      |           | 2     |         | 60     |
| Netherlands     | 183       |       |         |        |
| North Macedonia |           | 1     |         | 30     |
| Norway          |           | 89    |         |        |
| Poland          | 580       |       | 8,500   |        |
| Portugal        | 42        | 20    | 3,200   |        |
| Romania         |           | 11    |         | 240    |
| Serbia          | 19        | 6     |         | 300    |
| Slovakia        | 1         | 10    | 1,200   | 900    |
| Slovenia        | 28        | 27    | 1,000   | 710    |
| Spain           | 219       | 140   | 18,000  | 8,000  |
| Sweden          | 80        | 100   | 3,000   | 2,100  |
| Switzerland     | 120       | 95    | 7,050   | 4,171  |
| Turkey          | 11        | 17    |         | 1,500  |
| United Kingdom  | 300       | 212   | 20,000  | 10,000 |
| Totals          | 4,859     | 2,497 | 190,674 | 84,511 |

# LOOKING AHEAD, WHAT WILL BE OUR PRIORITIES?

**The following steps are essential for FEPA and for all Members**

- Share information about philately as widely as possible, using digital technology and innovative methods.
- Look for opportunities to share experience and cooperate in developing future plans.



# FEPA'S PLANS

The FEPA Board has reviewed its plans in the light of these priorities.

Our scope for activity is restricted by limited resources.

We must make the most of what we have.

We have decided to make changes over the next two years in all of our main areas of activity.

# Sharing information

The [FEPANEWS.COM](https://www.fepanews.com) website is our main channel of information to philatelic organisations and the wider world. The chart below shows its reach this year.

Period selection (timezone UTC+2)

Jan 1, 2024 - Aug 31, 2024

Domain Selection

web - fepanews.com



**7695543**

Valid pages access



**439739**

Error pages access



**526816**

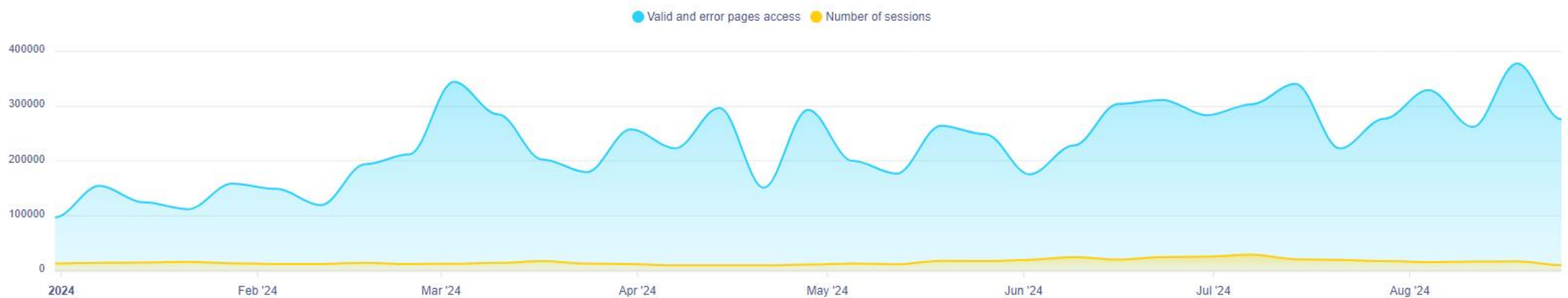
Number of sessions



**6min 12sec**

Average session duration

## Traffic



# Sharing information: Further Development

Our aims are to:

- Build our reputation as a valuable channel for news about philately in Europe and for publishing innovative articles on philatelic exhibiting, organisation and research.
- Sustain a continuous flow of communications, including news items and articles.
- Reach the widest possible audience with the resources we have available.

# Future Plan for Communications

The best way of achieving these aims is to move all FEPA communications on to digital platforms.

1. The website will be re-designed to integrate its content with articles that would currently appear in FEPA NEWS.
2. The last printed issue of FEPA NEWS will appear early in 2025.
3. FEPA NEWS will then only be published on the website and will cease as a separate publication by the end of 2026.
4. The Newsletter will continue to be sent out twice monthly.

# Promoting Innovation and Cooperation

The FEPA Board wants to promote closer cooperation between Members.

In 2025 we will launch a project in which all Members will be invited to participate.

Lars Engelbrecht will go into more detail on what we propose later in the meeting.

# Supporting Exhibitions

Exhibitions will remain a vital tool for philatelic organisations in promoting philately, but they have become more difficult to organise as costs rise and financial support is less easily available.

The FEPA Board is looking at whether it could do more to support Exhibition Organisers.

FEPA currently offers:

- Recognition - essentially help with advertising and promotion,
- Patronage - a full exhibition package with assistance in meeting required standards.

We will consult Members on whether a third package - more than Recognition but less than full Patronage - would be helpful to Organisers.

# Supporting Exhibitions

We need more apprentice jurors

We have six apprentice judges at HAFNIA, gaining experience of working at the international level.

We currently have no more apprentices on our list.

I am sure you have national jurors who could progress to become international judges.

Please nominate them so that we can build the juries of the future.

# Rewarding Achievements

Always appreciated, and the cost is minimal.

The FEPA Board is honoured to reward outstanding achievements in philately, whether with Medals or Certificates of Appreciation.

We have changed the rules to encourage Members to nominate more candidates:

- **Medals.** The timetable for nomination is being brought forward to link awards more closely to the year for which they are made.
- **Certificates of Appreciation.** Nominations can now be made at any time during the year.
- **Publicity.** More publicity will be given to FEPA awards to draw attention to their significance.



# In Conclusion

Our shared aim is to promote philately in Europe.

FEPA wants to do what it can to help you.

*My request to you, the FEPA Members!*

Let us know what your plans are.

Give us your full support to deliver this programme.

THANK YOU