

# The Quarterly Digest – January to March 2020

What is this? We as the [steering committee \(SC\)](#) wanted to share the work done in the network with all of you, so every quarter of the year we put everything in a nutshell in this one page blast!



Ali Rastroo

<https://www.toonsmag.com/together/>

**Science in the time of Covid-19** This is the number one issue in the world right now. Although most of us are far from their labs and libraries, we as scientists are the privileged ones that are able to make the virus visible, to make it treatable, to understand its epidemiology, and the impact of discourse and actions in society and economic. In another note, home office is demanding in many ways and uncertainty may create anxiety and stress. We feel you. Researchers understand now maybe more than ever the duty to society. Many of you are already engaged in diagnostic labs handling PCR for virus detection. If you are interested in doing such work and live in Berlin, you can sign up for the diagnostic lab of Charité in this [link](#). Besides, you can ask your local hospital if they need people with lab experience for diagnostics. We all know that healthcare providers and the supply sector are the ones carrying the greatest burden and we are grateful for their work! But all of you who are working on medication, vaccines and the statistics on the Covid-19 pandemic, please accept our little digital applause!

**PhD representation: Remote mode now!** Before Covid-19 slowed down our PhD representatives' lives, we started the year with some great perspectives to advocate for our interests: Katharina (WG Prevention of Power Abuse) and Anja (spokesperson) went to the [Ombudssymposium](#) on Research Integrity. Anja presented the Network Survey to Project Group Equal Opportunities at the Leibniz Head Office. In Mainz, our spokespersons met the N2 colleagues from Max Planck, Helmholtz and IPP to push forward the upcoming surveys this summer – stay tuned! There was also the kickoff to organize the **N2-Event in fall 2021!** If you want to be part of the organization, drop a line to Anja ([spokesperson@leibniz-phd.net](mailto:spokesperson@leibniz-phd.net)). But for now, #westayathome – remote mode on!

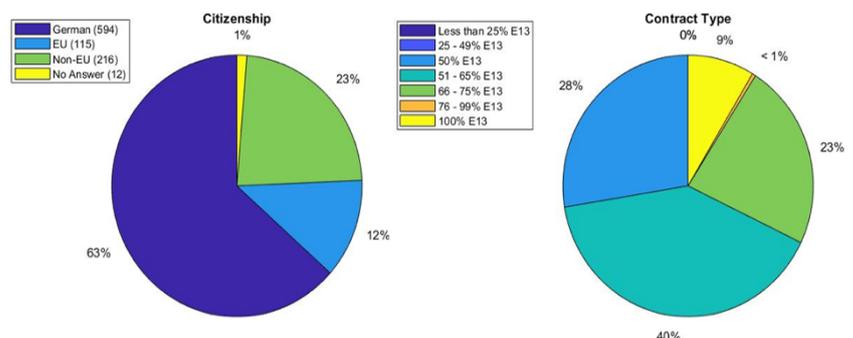
**Event funding and digital alternatives** As voted in the last GA, one of the network goals is to strengthen local networks or section wide exchange. That is why we published a call for Event Funding. However, physical events are not really the place to be right now. **The deadline for the call is still the April 14** but we are fully aware that this environment is not ideal to really plan an event, albeit these times will be back. We are optimistic about this! In the meantime, you may share your ideas with us! We are flexible in this fast changing times and we have some funds to allocate to your ideas ☺ If you want to know more, please write to Antoine, our treasurer ([antoine.verriere@mfn.berlin](mailto:antoine.verriere@mfn.berlin)). The WG Mental Health already got active and is organizing a webinar – more information soon in our social media accounts or contact directly Dolly, Section B spokesperson ([espinosa.dolly.ucv@gmail.com](mailto:espinosa.dolly.ucv@gmail.com)).

**Future Workshop cancelled – Participation remains** We are thrilled by the feedback we had for our Future Workshop to be in April! So many of you wanted to participate and get active – Thanks for this! If you still want to get involved and participate in the remote work, there are many ways to do so. Interested in communication, web design, and social media? Write Isa ([i.killian@leibniz-zfmk.de](mailto:i.killian@leibniz-zfmk.de)). If you are a good graphic designer or a skilled report writer, the Survey Group is looking for people who transform numbers into visuals and clear text. Contact Jan-Lucas ([jan-lucas.schanze@gesis.org](mailto:jan-lucas.schanze@gesis.org)) for more. If you are a mediator deep inside and know how to resolve miscommunication and misconduct, contact the WG Prevention of Power Abuse through Katharina ([kwillenbuecher@atb-potsdam.de](mailto:kwillenbuecher@atb-potsdam.de)). Writing your dissertation and cannot wait for your Alumni life? Share your ideas on this with the WG Alumni writing Jacob ([gorenflos@fmp-berlin.de](mailto:gorenflos@fmp-berlin.de)).

**Sneak preview on the Survey results (section internationals)** In December we ended the field phase of the Leibniz PhD Survey. The WG Survey is currently analyzing all the data. The ever-relevant international researchers' situation is our highlight this time. The percentage of internationals in a doctoral program in Leibniz institutes and museums has increased from 29% in 2017 to 35% in 2019. Surprisingly, non-EU internationals are about two times more than EU internationals.

As much as 28% of them work on 50% TVöD contracts. This kind of contract is on borrowed time; we have been working hard in improving this situation. The majority of contracts ranges from 51 to 100%, which is good news, but we as a network are lobbying that 100% work (often more) should be recompensed with 100% pay. Only 9% of internationals have already reached this stage.

The survey also asked for satisfaction levels. Internationals were most satisfied with office equipment (85%), vacation days (80%), and scientific support (79%); and the least with psychological support (28%), career development (21%), and bureaucracy/administrative support (21%). The numbers point towards what should be done to attract more qualified internationals. There is room for improvement!



Thanks to the WG Survey for their excellent work. A special mention goes to Emilio Perez-Bosch Quesada for selecting and plotting the data.

**Stay safe and reach out to us!** Spokespersons (Anja and Jacob) [spokesperson@leibniz-phd.net](mailto:spokesperson@leibniz-phd.net); Sections: A (Annika) [annika.diekmann@bergbaumuseum.de](mailto:annika.diekmann@bergbaumuseum.de); B (Irene) [i.broer@leibniz-hbi.de](mailto:i.broer@leibniz-hbi.de); C (Kristine) [oevel@fmp-berlin.de](mailto:oevel@fmp-berlin.de); D (Suyuan) [chen.suyuan@isas.de](mailto:chen.suyuan@isas.de); and E (Gui) [guilherme.abuchahla@leibniz-zmt.de](mailto:guilherme.abuchahla@leibniz-zmt.de) ☺