

EAHIL Council Election - Candidate Statement	
<i>Country</i>	Austria
<i>Name</i>	Irma Klerings
<i>Affiliation</i>	Department for Evidence-based Medicine and Evaluation, Danube-University Krems
<i>My professional education and experience</i>	<p>I am an "embedded" information specialist at the Department for Evidence-based Medicine and Evaluation of Danube-University Krems. In this position, my main tasks are conducting and evaluating systematic searches and providing training. I also work as information specialist for Cochrane Austria and Cochrane Public Health, and I am a member of the Cochrane Information Specialists Executive.</p> <p>My academic background is media and communication studies. After completing a bilingual degree in Germany and France, I completed a post-graduate training as documentalist/media archivist in Germany. In 2014, I decided to return to Austria and started working in the field of health information.</p>
<i>What I think is special about EAHIL</i>	<p>EAHIL provides the possibility of international exchange in the area of health information. Yet, as an European association, this exchange is less dominated by US contributions and therefore more relevant to the European context.</p> <p>The EAHIL workshops and conferences in particular provide a great opportunity for training and collaboration with colleagues from other countries.</p>
<i>What I expect to contribute to EAHIL Council</i>	<p>I joined EAHIL in 2017 and during these years, there was no Austrian council member. I want to remedy that and provide an Austrian perspective.</p> <p>In addition, I can contribute my perspective as "embedded" information professional who is working at a university, but not in a university library.</p>
<i>What I think are the most important issues for European health information professionals in 2019-2022</i>	<p>As every other field, we will continue to grapple with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Apart from this big picture perspective, I also believe that it is important to raise the visibility of health librarians and information professionals as partners for researchers, not just service providers. There is much expertise available in libraries that can benefit health research, but researchers are often not aware of it.</p>
<i>My one-line statement for my election campaign</i>	Having benefited from training and networking opportunities provided by EAHIL, I'd like to give something back and help raise awareness for EAHIL activities.

Photo

