

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR FUZZY LOGIC AND TECHNOLOGY

EUSFLAT

Minutes of the EUSFLAT General Assembly 2014

Montpellier, July 16, 2014

The Assembly starts at 17:15, fifteen minutes later than as scheduled because of the necessity to change the room.

Agenda:

- 1.- EUSFLAT Board report
- 2.- Agreements with other associations and related conferences
- 3.- EUSFLAT grants
- 4.- EUSFLAT Awards
- 5.- Working groups *
- 6.- Mathware & SC magazine
- 7.- IJCIS
- 8.- Treasury report *
- 9.- EUSFLAT 2015 conference
- 10.- European Summer School on Fuzzy Logic and Applications proposal
- 11.- Other matters

* Requires a decision

Before the official agenda of the EUSFLAT Board, Gabriella Pasi expresses a gratitude to Elie Sanchez, great scientist and pioneer of fuzzy logic, who has unfortunately passed away recently.

1.- EUSFLAT Board Report.

President:	Gabriella PASI, Italy
Vice President:	Bernard DE BAETS, Belgium
Secretary:	Martin ŠTĚPNIČKA, Czech Republic
Treasurer:	Eduardo BARRENECHEA, Spain
Societies and conferences:	Javier MONTERO, Spain
Connections with ECSC:	José María ALONSO, Spain
Connections with IJCIS:	Jie LU, Australia
EUSFLAT Magazine:	Humberto BUSTINCE, Spain
Link to European projects:	Vicenc TORRA, Spain
Link to industry:	Rudolf KRUSE, Germany
Recruiting:	Marie-Jeanne LESOT, France
Web Coordination:	Jorge CASILLAS, Spain
Grants:	Brunella GERLA, Italy

Working Groups: Sławomir ZADROZNY, Poland
Awards: Eulalia SZMIDT, Poland

Gabriella Pasi, the President of EUSFLAT announces that Janusz Kacprzyk has been elected Fellow of the European Coordinating Committee for Artificial Intelligence (ECCAI). She congratulates Janusz Kacprzyk, and she reminds that also other EUSFLAT members have received such a prestigious Award.

Janusz Kacprzyk expresses his thanks to the community, and he also cites and thanks the other members of the association who received such an award, and who are attending the Assembly.

EUSFLAT membership stats were reported. The main number – the current number of members – equals to 245. The membership is distributed over 28 countries with leading Spain (106), followed by the Czech Republic (24), France (21) and Italy (18). In order to stabilize the membership numbers, Gabriella Pasi emphasizes all the membership benefits, such as reduced conference fee, access to IJCIS journal, student travel grants just to mention some of them in order to motivate people to join and mainly, in order to motivate members to help to advertise the society among their colleagues. She also mentions that an agreement with the supported conferences could be made to the aim of offering a registration fee that includes the EUSFLAT membership fee.

2.- Agreements with Other Associations and Related Conferences

Gabriella Pasi recalls the existing agreements with other associations that provide EUSFLAT members with the benefit of membership fees or conference fees discounts, namely HFA, NAFIPS, NSAIS, RAFSSoftCom, SIGEF, ACIA, SBA, IRSS.

Exhaustive list of supported and endorsed conference is provided as well.

[Call to apply for new supported/endorsed conferences!](#)

3.- EUSFLAT Grants

Brunella Gerla provides the society with a short report on student grants. From eight to twelve grants per each year are being awarded as a general society strategy with a support of the EUSFLAT conference in odd years and a support of IPMU, SMPS, LFA, MDAI and ISCAMI in even years. In 2014, the society has assigned 11 grants (5 for IPMU, 3 for SMPS, 3 for LFA).

The formal rules including the process of an application and instructions for applicants are published on the society web page <http://eusflat.org> . The rules for conference organizers are being specified as well, the main one that has to be emphasized, is the necessity to offer reduced conference fees to our society members.

Newly, **Brunella Gerla** introduces a proposal to ask students – grant holders, to submit an abstract or a scientific report to our society magazine *Mathware & SC*.

4.- EUSFLAT Awards

Gabriella Pasi recalls previously awarded awards, particularly, **EUSFLAT Scientific Excellence Award (Didier Dubois, Petr Hájek)**. These awardees, together with all past and current EUSFLAT presidents will constitute a committee to determine the next **EUSFLAT Scientific Excellence Award** winner that will be publically announced on EUSFLAT 2015 conference.

Furthermore, **Gabriella Pasi** recalls the **EUSFLAT Best PhD Thesis Awards** that will be awarded next year. The deadline for a submission of an application is six months! before the EUSFLAT conference (June 30 – July 3), i.e., the deadline is January 1, 2015!

All details are published on <http://eusflat.org/awards.php>

Gabriella Pasi also recalls the **EUSFLAT Best student paper Award at EUSFLAT conferences** that will be also awarded next year. The deadline for a submission of an application is one months! before the EUSFLAT conference (June 30 – July 3), i.e., the deadline is May 30, 2015!

All details are also published on <http://eusflat.org/awards.php>

5.- Working Groups

Slawomir Zadrozny provides the society with a report on Working group activities. Firstly, he mentions the main features and goals of a working group, secondly he recalls the most typical activities of working groups, thirdly, **Slawomir Zadrozny** provides the society with new ideas (rules) in order to strengthen the activity of working groups. **Slawomir Zadrozny** emphasizes also the activities strengthening the visibility and mainly providing the scientific quality guarantee for both, the society as well as public audience (ontology, organization of the knowledge, Wikipedia, scholarpedia etc.). **Slawomir Zadrozny** also proposes the idea of asking Working Group coordinators to edit a book reporting on the scientific outcomes of the research activities undertaken by their members.

Furthermore, **Slawomir Zadrozny** provides a review of each working group activity. Finally, the announcement of the request for creating a new *Working Group on Intuitionistic Fuzzy Sets: Theory, Applications and Related Topics* (IFSTART) is provided.

6.- Mathware & SC Magazine

Short report on *Mathware & SC* magazine is provided by **Gabriella Pasi**.

Call for contributions, namely scientific reports, summaries of forums, panels, news and calls (PhD thesis, books, comments, events) is emphasized!

Contributions may be submitted via <http://eusflat.org/msc> or using the editor-in-chief email address bustince@unavarra.es.

7.- IJCIS

Gabriella Pasi provides the society with a report on the IJCIS journal and its activities. The acceptance rate has decreased last years as well as the self-citation percentage (only 4% in 2013!), which confirms that the recently introduced initiatives and actions were very positive. The hypothetical IF in 2013 calculated based on the data provided by Thomson Reuters Web of Science is 0.566. We expect to get the official IF back in 2014. However, observing the numbers of published paper by countries, the number of papers submitted by EUSFLAT members should increase.

Targets for 2015 are as follows: establish some research topics as flagships; obtained and improved IF; improvement in the online submission system; improvement of the reviewer database; improvement in the promotion for EUSFLAT (bulletin for each new issue).

8.- Treasury Reports: 2013 Budget, 2014 Estimated Budget, 2015 Proposed Budget.

Gabriella Pasi informed about the treasury reports. The main features were as follows.

2013 budget surplus: 3,790.04 EUR

December 31, 2013 account situation: 32,062.81 EUR

2014 expected budget surplus: -164.5 EUR

2015 proposed budget surplus: -870.00 EUR

December 31, 2015 proposed account situation: 31,028.31 EUR

Marcin Detyniecki asks about the non-balanced expenses of the society as the biggest portion of the budget is spent for grants. Is this coherent with the overall strategy of the society? **Gabriella Pasi** answers that it is, as the students mean future for the society. In this context, **Irina Perfilieva** asks about a competition that determines grant holders – is there any? Brunella Gerla and Gabriella Pasi outline that the number of applications was balanced with respect to the number of available grants. **Vilém Novák** suggests increasing the expenses for student grants even in order to obtain a negative surplus of year budget as there is enough money on the society bank account which can be spent in this direction which may bring better benefits than to keep them in the bank.

The 2013 treasury report, the 2014 estimated budget and finally the 2015 proposed budget were approved by all EUSFLAT members participating on the Assembly.

9.- IFSA/EUSFLAT 2015 Conference

José María Alonso, presented a few slides about the organization of the IFSA/EUSFLAT 2015 conference). He presented many details as well as motivations to participate on the joint IFSA-EUSFLAT event. The main information consists in the dates of the conference (June 30 – July 3) and the location which will be Gijón (Asturias, Spain). Society members are advised to visit:

<http://www.softcomputing.es/ifsa-eusflat2015/>

Furthermore, José María Alonso recalls the main deadline (special session proposal – November 1, 2015; paper submission deadline – January 16, 2015) and the main features motivating any interested scientist to come and participate.

10.- European Summer School on Fuzzy Logic and Applications Proposal

Gabriella Pasi presents the recent Board initiative to establish a regular European Summer School on Fuzzy Logic and Applications organized every year in a different place. The expected duration would be ca 5 days and the target would be to address PhD students, post-docs and professionals with the high-level education of both theoretical and practical aspects of fuzzy logic (in a broad sense) and of related applications. For 2015, the school could be organised in Italy in the first half of September, and in this case **Gabriella Pasi** herself would be the person responsible for this first year organization.

Gabriella Pasi formulates three crucial questions that the Board needs in order to accept or deny the decision about the initiative:

- a) How many of you would financially support their students to attend such a school?
- b) How many of you would be willing to organize such an event in the future?
- c) How many of you would agree on the organization of such an event?

There was a common positive answer to all three questions however, the number of raised hands in the first two cases was obviously significantly lower than in the case of question c). Up to some extent, this is a natural consequent of the fact that only the “heads” of departments or research groups answered to a) and b) in order to avoid misleading duplicate answers from more people from the same group, up to some extent, it is a consequence of the clear fact, that the support (question c)) does not require to overcome obstacles as the answer to questions a) and b), as pointed out by **Vilém Novák**. He mentioned that he has no problem to support participation of students if it will be legal from the local point of view (local country law, university directive, project provider rules etc.) which might be a problem as most of students have no employee contracts at universities and thus, cannot be directly supported from their departments.

Didier Dubois supports the idea and outlines the very general and possibly misleading meaning of the expression “Fuzzy Logic”; to avoid ambiguities it proposes to leave as a general title “Fuzzy Logic”, and to introduce a subtitle that may characterize a more focused topic for each summer school in order to better aim at a target group.

Janusz Kacprzyk suggests modifying the name of the summer school (avoiding the term “fuzzy logic”). Furthermore, he suggests moving the intended topic more towards applications.

Irina Perfilieva supports the idea of the summer school and suggests introducing an expectation that if a teacher participates on the summer school he/she will begin at least two students with him/her. This can be done e.g. by paying a fee from the teacher and use this money to donate the students.

Marcin Detyniecki supports the proposed balance of theory and practice. Moreover, he supports to use some of the student grants to be spent in this direction.

Gabriella Pasi proposes to define an advisory board to evaluate the quality of the scientific contents of the school that will be proposed by the possible coordinators of the school in their bids for application.

During this point, some of the assembly attendants left the room.

11.- Other Matters

The newly suggested *Working Group on Intuitionistic Fuzzy Sets: Theory, Applications and Related Topics* (IFSTART) needs an approval according to Bylaws, Chapter VI, Article 29.

Before the formal approval, **Vilém Novák** opens the question of the terminological difficulties related to the working group title. This opens a rather broader discussion among the attendants.

During this point, some of the assembly attendants left the room.

Martin Štěpnička summarizes that we have two options at this moment, either to open the approval voting right now in the given setting including the proposed title of the working group, or to open the conditional approval voting with the condition to modify the name, which is on the other hand hard to accept as neither the coordinator nor any of the associative coordinators are present to confirm their willingness to consider title modification.

The rather broader discussion among some attendants continues and during this point, some of the assembly attendants leave the room.

With respect to the given situation, when most of the members already left the room and the number of the Assembly attendants is only about 10% of the overall number of EUSFLAT members and in order proceed all approvals required by Bylaws with a sufficiently strong and unquestionable mandate, **Martin Štěpnička** suggest to make a decision if the approval should be done on this Assembly, or rather postponed to the next one in 2015, in which a much higher number of attendants is expected. This option would moreover provide time to clarify the terminological clash.

Four attendants voted against the decision postpone, three attendants abstained from voting, vast majority agreed on postponing the decision to the next Assembly in order to accompany the decision with a strong mandate.

Society was reminded that the next EUSFLAT Assembly will take place during EUSFLAT conference 2015 in Gijón, Spain, June 30 – July 3.

With no other issue, the Assembly finished at 18:50.

Signed, **Gabriella Pasi** (EUSFLAT President)
Date: July 17, 2014

Signed, **Martin Štěpnička** (EUSFLAT Secretary)
Date: July 17, 2014