

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR FUZZY LOGIC AND TECHNOLOGY

EUSFLAT

Minutes of the EUSFLAT General Assembly 2017

Warsaw, September 14, 2017

The assembly starts at 17:05, (five minutes later than as scheduled).

Agenda:

- 1.- EUSFLAT Board Report
- 2.- Agreements with Conferences and Associations
- 3.- EUSFLAT Grants
- 4.- EUSFLAT Awards
- 5.- EUSFLAT Working Groups
- 6.- Mathware and Soft Computing Magazine
- 7.- IJCIS
- 8.- Treasury report *
- 9.- EUSFLAT Summer Schools
- 10.- EUSFLAT Research Centers
- 11.- EUSFLAT 2019
- 12.- New Board Elections *
- 13.- Other Issues

* Requires a decision

1.- EUSFLAT Board Report.

President:	Gabriella PASI, Italy
Vice President:	Bernard DE BAETS, Belgium
Secretary:	José María ALONSO, Spain
Treasurer:	Susana MONTES, Spain
Awards:	Eulalia SZMIDT, Poland
Societies and conferences:	Javier MONTERO, Spain
Connection with IJCIS:	Jie LU, Australia
EUSFLAT Magazine:	Humberto BUSTINCE, Spain
Link to European projects:	Vicenc TORRA, Spain
Link to industry:	Rudolf KRUSE, Germany
Organization/Promotion:	Martin ŠTĚPNIČKA, Czech Republic
Recruitment:	Marie-Jeanne LESOT, France
Student Grants:	Brunella GERLA, Italy
Web Coordination:	Jorge CASILLAS, Spain
Working Groups:	Slawomir ZADROZNY, Poland

Gabriella Pasi, the EUSFLAT president during the last 4 years, thanked all the board members for their work during the two terms of her presidency.

EUSFLAT membership stats were reported. The main number – the current number of members – equals to 251 (August 2017). The membership is distributed over 38 countries with leading Spain (106), followed by Italy (20), the Czech Republic (19), France (13), Poland (12), and India (12). New initiatives help to keep the membership situation stable.

Gabriella remarks that for the first time this year we had an agreement with FUZZ-IEEE what had a positive impact in attracting members to our society.

2.- Agreements with Other Associations and Related Conferences

Javier Montero 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, SBA, ACIA, IRSS. The exhaustive list of supported and endorsed conferences is also provided.

Finally, the list of contacts in the EUSFLAT correspondent network is highlighted.

3.- EUSFLAT Grants

Brunella Gerla provides the society with a short report on student grants. From eight to twelve grants per each year had been awarded as a general strategy of the society, in previous years; with a strong support to the EUSFLAT conference in odd years and also a smaller but important support to other related conferences in even years. In 2016, the society assigned 13 grants (3 for LFA, 2 for IPMU, and 8 for SFLA). In 2017, there are 23 grants already awarded (5 for FUZZIEEE, 9 for EUSFLAT and 9 for SFLA). 5 grants are already planned for next IPMU2018. Some grants for the next summer school are also forecasted for 2018, but the actual number is still to be decided.

Brunella highlights some strong and weak points in the grant application procedure. 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. The exhaustive list of grant holders is available in the society website.

4.- EUSFLAT Awards

Gabriella Pasi recalls the existing EUSFLAT awards and the related rules. They are detailed in the society website. Gabriella also recognizes the hard work done by **Eulalia Szmidt** regarding the awards procedure.

Gabriella announces that **Janusz Kacprzyk** is acknowledged as **EUSFLAT Honorary Member**. This candidature was proposed by the Board and approved by the EUSFLAT General Assembly, in Eindhoven, Netherlands, during the last IPMU conference (June 21, 2016). Gabriella also thanks Janusz for his nice contribution to make EUSFLAT 2017 a successful event.

The **EUSFLAT Scientific Excellence Award** was awarded to **Radko Mesiar** and **Bernadette Bouchon-Meunier**.

The **EUSFLAT Best PhD Thesis Awards 2015** was awarded to **Amanda Vidal Wandelmer** for his PhD thesis entitled “*On modal expansions of t-norm based logics with rational constants*” (with Félix Bou, Francesc Esteva and Lluís Godo, as Ph.D. advisors).

The **EUSFLAT Best PhD Thesis Awards 2016** was awarded to **Alejandro Ramos Soto** for his PhD thesis entitled “*Application of fuzzy sets in data-to-text systems*” (with Alberto Bugarín and Senén Barro, as Ph.D. advisors).

The **2017 EUSFLAT Conference Best Student Paper Award** was awarded on the Conference Gala dinner, September 13, to Laura de Miguel.

The three nominees were:

- Laura De Miguel: “Convolution on bounded lattices”
- André Carvalho: “Fuzzy fingerprints for item-based collaborative filtering”
- Gang Wang: “Edge detection based on the fusion of multiscale anisotropic edge strength measurements”.

Congratulations to the awardees!

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. There are currently 10 working groups.

Zadrozny mentions the main features and goals of a working group. Then, he recalls the most typical activities of working groups. He also highlights that some groups are more active than others. For the future, the new elected Board should face the issue of motivating all groups to be active; some groups may be created or canceled.

Furthermore, Zadrozny provides a brief review of each working group activity.

6.- Mathware & Soft Computing Magazine

Gabriella Pasi introduces a short report on the Mathware & Soft Computing magazine which was prepared by **Humberto Bustince**, the Editor in Chief. She starts by asking

how many people have already contributed to the magazine. Then she reminds the important dates to keep in mind to contribute to the magazine. She also highlights the nice magazine contents, including very informative interviews to important people in the fuzzy community.

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>.

7.- IJCIS

Javier Montero presents the report of the International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems (IJCIS) on behalf of the Editor-in-Chiefs, **Jie Lu** and **Luis Martínez**. Javier highlights the main related activities. The journal is **Open Access since June 2016**. A new agreement was signed between Atlantis Press and EUSFLAT regarding IJCIS. Accordingly, the publication fee is waived for the first 20 papers per year which have as first and corresponding author an EUSFLAT members. Only 8 papers co-authored by EUSFLAT members are already published in 2017. Thanks to Open Access the visibility of the journal has increased. The problem with self-citations is fixed. IJCIS is now recognized as a serious, quality and trustworthy open access journal. As result, the 2016 impact factor has increased. It is expected to be even higher for 2017. Production time has been reduced. Submissions by EUSFLAT members are encouraged.

8.- Treasury Reports: 2016 Budget, 2017 Estimated Budget, 2018 Proposed Budget.

Susana Montes informs about the treasury reports. The main features were as follows.

2016 budget surplus: -3438.68 EUR

December 31, 2016 account situation: 33,403.82 EUR

2017 expected budget surplus: -3546.65 EUR

2018 proposed budget surplus: -750.00 EUR

December 31, 2018 proposed account situation: 29,107.17 EUR

The 2016 treasury report, the 2017 estimated budget and finally the 2018 proposed budget were approved by all EUSFLAT members participating on the Assembly.

9.- EUSFLAT Summer Schools

Gabriella Pasi summarizes the history of EUSFLAT Summer Schools on Fuzzy Logic and Applications (SFLA), highlighting the main achievements. The first SFLA took place in Lake Como, Italy, in September 7-11, 2015. The second SFLA took place in Beskydy mountains, Celadná, Czech Republic, in August 14-19, 2016. The third SFLA

took place in CITIUS-USC, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, in July 17 – 21, 2017. The last edition of the school was jointly organized with the third summer school of the Spanish association on Artificial Intelligence, thus gathering about 70 participants (including lecturers and students). All the three editions were successful. They were scheduled in 5 days each, with a list of recognized scholars. **Gabriella Pasi** recalls that SFLA aims not only at PhD students but also at undergraduate students, postdocs and interested professional. Everybody is welcome.

This initiative is growing and consolidating. It is now time to think about the future, it is still to be decided when and where the next edition will take place. Gabriella asks about the chance of organizing the school every 2 years alternating with the EUSFLAT conference. **Bernard de Baets** introduces the idea of including tutorials for granted students during the EUSFLAT conference. **Vilem Novak** says he had bad experience with tutorials before. On the other hand, **Uzay Kaymak** remarks he had good experience with this kind of initiative. It seems to be consensus about the fact that attending tutorials should be mandatory for granted students.

There is the chance of organizing SFLA 2018 in Lecce, Italy, before the end of July. Other proposals are welcome. Decision is to be made soon.

10.- EUSFLAT Research Centres

Martin Štěpnička presents in a few slides the current state of the Board initiative on **EUSFLAT Research Centres – Centres sealed by EUSFLAT**. He remarks motivation, criteria and how to apply. Currently, there is only one application temporarily approved (the joint centre is not established yet, but it is in progress). Other applications are encouraged. **The goal is to motivate centres to obtain this prestigious label by keeping or improving their scientific quality in the connection with the EUSFLAT scientific focus and with the engagement in the EUSFLAT activities.** Detailed information and guidelines are already published in the website of the society.

11.- EUSFLAT 2019

Gabriella Pasi announces that the next EUSFLAT conference will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, September 9-13, 2019. **Martin Štěpnička** introduces a preliminary website which is already running. The conference will be organized by the IRAFM, University of Ostrava, in collaboration with the CIIRC, Czech Technical University in Prague.

12.- New Board elections

José María Alonso, as EUSFLAT Secretary, runs the new Board elections. After a short review of the situation, legal issues are commented and the submitted candidature is presented. Then, the EUSFLAT members were asked to vote.

List of elected Board (2017-2019) members:

President

Martin Štěpnička
University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Vice-president

Vladik Kreinovich
University of Texas at El Paso, USA

Secretary

José María Alonso
University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Treasurer

Susana Montes
University of Oviedo, Spain

Additional members:

Eulalia Szmidt
Gabriella Pasi
Francisco Javier Montero de Juan
Humberto Bustince
Christophe Marsala
Luis Martínez López
Daniel Sánchez Fernández
Sebastián Massanet
Guy de Tré
S.P. Tiwari

The candidature was elected by all the members at the Assembly.

Votes FOR: ALL

Votes NOT FOR: 0

Abstained from voting: 0

Martin Štěpnička is elected as new EUSFLAT president by unanimity. He briefly thanks the support of the assembly to the new Board.

12.- Other Issues

Janusz Kacprzyk talks about the need to think carefully about how to strengthen the collaboration with IEEE. He suggests **Rudolf Seising** may be a good candidate to act as link between the two societies.

With no other issue, the Assembly finished at 18:23.

Signed, **Gabriella Pasi** (EUSFLAT President in the period 2013-2017)
Date: September 14, 2017

Signed, **Martin Štěpnička** (EUSFLAT President newly elected for 2017 - 2019)
Date: September 14, 2017

Signed, **José María Alonso** (EUSFLAT Secretary)
Date: September 14, 2017