

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR FUZZY LOGIC AND TECHNOLOGY

EUSFLAT

Minutes of the EUSFLAT General Assembly 2019

Prague, September 10, 2019

The assembly starts at 17:42, (12 minutes later than as scheduled).

Agenda:

- 1.- EUSFLAT Board Report
- 2.- Treasury report *
- 3.- Working Groups
- 4.- EUSFLAT Awards *
- 5.- EUSFLAT Grants
- 6.- Mathware and Soft Computing Magazine
- 7.- International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems (IJCIS)
- 8.- EUSFLAT Summer School on Fuzzy Logic and Applications (SFLA 2020)
- 9.- IFSA-EUSFLAT 2021
- 10.- New Board Elections *
- 11.- Other Issues

* Requires a decision

1.- EUSFLAT Board Report.

President:	Martin ŠTĚPNIČKA, Czech Republic
Vice President:	Vladik KREINOVICH, USA
Secretary:	José María ALONSO, Spain
Treasurer:	Susana MONTES, Spain
Awards:	Eulalia SZMIDT, Poland
IFSA and other Societies:	Javier MONTERO, Spain
Atlantis Press (IJCIS):	Luis MARTÍNEZ, Spain
EUSFLAT Magazine:	Humberto BUSTINCE, Spain
Publications:	Gabriella PASI, Italy
Recruitment:	Sebastiá MASSANET, Spain
Grants:	Christophe MARSALA, France
Web and Social Networks:	Daniel SÁNCHEZ, Spain
Working Groups:	Guy DE TRÉ, Belgium
Promotion in Asia:	S.P. TIWARI, India

Martin Štěpnička, the current EUSFLAT president, starts presenting the list of board members. Then, he presents some details about outer collaboration which EUSFLAT members can take profit from. Firstly, new proceedings series published by Atlantis

Press (Open Access) under the auspicious of EUSFLAT. Secondly, new contract with MDPI. Thirdly, memorandum of understanding with IEEE.

In addition, he comments some internal matters. Namely, institutional invoicing, new website (as well as new hosting), new personal management system and new conference guidelines with new rules.

Martin also shows a graph with the membership evolution since 2001. The increment observed in the current year is a consequence of the application of the new guidelines.

2.- Treasury Reports: 2018 Budget, 2019 Estimated Budget, 2020 Proposed Budget.

Martin Štěpnička informs about the treasury reports prepared by **Susana Montes** who was not able to attend the assembly. The main features were as follows:

2018 budget surplus: +3631.05 EUR

December 31, 2018 account situation: 35,513.62 EUR

2019 expected budget surplus: +4536.87 EUR

December 31, 2019 expected account situation: 40,050.49 EUR

2020 proposed budget surplus: +1650.00 EUR

December 31, 2020 proposed account situation: 41,700.49 EUR

The budget has a surplus every year. It is mainly devoted to grants. Martin invites members to ask for additional grants if they plan to organize future events to be endorsed by EUSFLAT.

Uzay Kaymak asked about which amount of money may be the right one for a healthy association, taking into account that EUSFLAT is a non-profit organization. Martin replies there is not a magical number. We need to have some money for unexpected issues but the goal of the society is not become rich but provide members with as much services and benefits as possible.

Vladik comments about the similar account situation in NAFIPS.

The 2018 treasury report, the 2019 estimated budget and finally the 2020 proposed budget were approved by all EUSFLAT members participating on the Assembly.

3.- Working Groups

Guy de Tré provides the assembly attendants with a report on Working group activities. Guy starts with the list of working groups. Then, he mentions the main activities carried out by working groups. He emphasized the need to keep groups active. Some new groups may be launched or some groups may update their name with a more modern or fashionable name. He also refers to facilities (e.g., forum, tutorials or panels) beyond special sessions. Finally, he encourages international collaboration.

Vladik comments the need to look for collaboration with task forces and working groups in other societies.

4.- EUSFLAT Awards

Martin recalls the existing EUSFLAT awards and the related rules. They are detailed in the society website. He also recognizes the hard work done by **Eulalia Szmidt** regarding the awards procedure. Unfortunately, Eulalia was not able to attend the assembly.

Martin enumerates the list of EUSFLAT honorary members and announces that **Luis Magdalena** is proposed by the Board to be acknowledged as **EUSFLAT Honorary Member**. Then, Martin summarizes some of the main contributions of Luis to EUSFLAT. It is worthy to note that Luis was the second EUSFLAT president (2001 - 2005) and he contributed strongly to make EUSFLAT a solid and mature society. He was also the General Chair of the IFSA-EUSFLAT 2015 conference which took place in Gijon.

After voting, this candidature is **approved by all EUSFLAT members participating in the Assembly**.

Congratulations to the awardee!

In addition, Martin presents the scientific excellence awards. This year, the nomination committee (which is made up of current and past EUSFLAT presidents along with previous awardees) decided to award two candidates (in alphabetical order): Humberto Bustince and Bernard de Baets.

Jose Alonso reminds that all details about EUSFLAT scientific excellence awards are published on <https://eusflat.org/members-scientific-award.html>

5.- EUSFLAT Grants

Christophe Marsala provides the society with a short report on student grants. The number of grants already provided in 2019 is 8 (12 grants are already allowed in total for 2019). It is worthy to note that three of the initially proposed grants for the EUSFLAT 2019 conference were finally cancelled. In addition, 4 grants are already proposed for LFA (which will take place in November at Ales, France).

In addition, Christophe shows a graph summarizing all grants awarded by the society since 2003. A total of 189 grants have already been allowed.

Christophe invites to apply for grants to those who may organize a conference endorsed by EUSFLAT in the future.

6.- Mathware & Soft Computing Magazine

Humberto Bustince, the Mathware & Soft Computing Magazine Editor in Chief, introduces a short report on the main activities related to the magazine. He announces the magazine editors are preparing a new book, jointly with Rudolf Seising. In addition, Humberto emphasizes that more contributions by EUSFLAT members are required. Namely, scientific reports, summaries of forums, panels, interviews, news and calls (PhD thesis, books, comments, events) are welcome.

Humberto shows as an example the announcement of the next International Symposium on Aggregation and Structures (ISAS2020) to be held in Pamplona. He invites EUSFLAT members to take part in ISAS2020.

7.- IJCIS

Luis Martínez, Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems (IJCIS), presents the annual report of the journal.

He highlights the main related activities. The journal is **Open Access since June 2016**. He reminds that the publication fee is waived for the first 20 papers per year which have as corresponding author an EUSFLAT member. Only 11 papers co-authored by EUSFLAT members are already published in 2019. Thanks to Open Access the visibility of the journal has increased. IJCIS is now recognized as a serious, quality and trustworthy open access journal. As result, the 2018 impact factor (computed regarding publications in 2016) has increased (in ISI and Scopus). If we want this impact factor is even higher for 2019, then high quality papers should be submitted by EUSFLAT members.

Accordingly, submissions by EUSFLAT members are encouraged. Moreover, higher involvement of EUSFLAT members as Area Editors and Board members is needed. There are already 3 Advisory board members, 9 Area Editors and 6 Board members who are regular EUSFLAT members. In addition, this year the IJCIS newsletter was established to advertise the benefits of publishing in IJCIS.

Martin emphasizes the benefits of having a high impact factor associated to EUSFLAT.

8.- EUSFLAT Summer School on Fuzzy Logic and Applications

Next SFLA edition will be in 2020, in Eindhoven, with Uzay Kaymak as General Chair. Martin asks Uzay to present SFLA2020.

Uzay remembers that last SFLA was in Bari. Even if previous editions take place in yearly basis, from now on SFLA will be held every two years.

IPMU 2016 was already organized at the University of Technology of Eindhoven. SFLA will take place in the same venue. Eindhoven has its own airport (only 20 minutes from the city by train) and is well connected through train with Amsterdam Schiphol Airport.

It is worthy to note that the SFLA2020 local organizing committee includes two students who took part in previous editions of SFLA. Uzay highlights appealing contents regarding both theory and applications. Moreover, he plans to run a doctoral school linked to SFLA2020.

9.- IFSA-EUSFLAT 2021

The next EUSFLAT conference will be jointly organized with IFSA. It will take place in the University of Ghent (Belgium), with three research groups (headed by Guy De Tré, Chris Cornelis and Bernard de Baets) of three different faculties to be deeply involved.

Martin asks Bernard to present IFSA-EUSFLAT2021. The honorary chair will be Etienne Kerre. Bernard presents the Ghent University as well as the city. It is vibrant city, with old heritage and easy to reach. Everyone is welcome to Ghent!

Dates: July 5 – 9, 2021.

Motto: The age of sustainability!

There will be many scientific events together. For example, the international conference on rough sets will be also co-located with IFSA-EUSFLAT 2021. In addition, FUZZ-IEEE 2021 will take place in Luxembourg (July 11 – 14). Notice that the connection from Ghent to Luxembourg is very easy.

10.- New Board Elections

Martin presents the new candidature.

José María Alonso, as EUSFLAT Secretary, runs the new Board elections. Only one candidature was received. After a short review of the related legal issues, the submitted candidature is presented. Then, the EUSFLAT members were asked to vote.

List of elected Board (2019-2021) members:

President

Martin Štěpnička

University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

Vice-president

Vladik Kreinovich

University of Texas at El Paso, USA

Secretary

Susana Montes

University of Oviedo, Spain

Treasurer

Francisco Javier Fernández

Public University of Navarra, Spain

Additional members:

Eulalia Szmidt (Awards)

Francisco Javier Montero de Juan (Links to IFSA and other societies)

Humberto Bustince (Magazine)

Gabriella Pasi (Publications)

Christophe Marsala (Grants)

Luis Martínez López (Atlantis Press)

Sebastián Massanet (Web and Social Networks)

Jose María Alonso Moral (Strategy)

Guy de Tré (Working Groups)

S.P. Tiwari (Promotion in Asia)

After voting, 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 thanks for the support of the Assembly to the new Board.

11.- Other Issues

Martin summarizes the main issues to keep in mind for the near future. It is worthy to note the calls for organizing EUSFLAT 2023 and SFLA 2022. He also remarks the importance of making members aware of the benefits offered by the society (e.g., ASUM proceedings, IJCIS, etc.). In addition, he announces that SMPS 2020 will be held in Valladolid, Spain.

Jose M. Alonso remarks the need to approach other related societies such as the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI). Next ECAI 2020 conference will be held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and participation of EUSFLAT members is encouraged. Attending ECAI 2020 is an opportunity.

Martin open a round for additional questions. Corrado Mencar asks about proceedings indexation in Scopus, ISI and so on. Jose talks about the GII-GRIN-SCIE ranking (<http://gii-grin-scie-rating.scie.es/ratingSearch.jsf>) and the need to do EUSFLAT conference to go up in the ranking. Gabriella Pasi adds some comments related to how this ranking is created.

With no other issue, the Assembly finished at 18:57.

Signed, **Martin Štěpnička** (EUSFLAT President)

Date: September 10, 2019

Signed, **José María Alonso** (EUSFLAT Secretary in the period 2017 - 2019)

Date: September 10, 2019