

# EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR FUZZY LOGIC AND TECHNOLOGY

## EUSFLAT

### Minutes of the EUSFLAT General Assembly 2021

Bratislava and Virtual (Zoom), September 22, 2021

The assembly starts at 15:12 (12 minutes later than as scheduled) with 48 participants.

#### **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
- 8.- EUSFLAT Summer School on Fuzzy Logic and Applications
- 9.- EUSFLAT conferences
- 10.- EUSFLAT section\*
- 11.- New board elections\*
- 12.- Other Issues

\* Requires a decision

#### **1.- EUSFLAT Board Report.**

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

**Martin Štěpnička**, the current EUSFLAT president, starts presenting the list of board members. Then, he presents some important and specific news for EUSFLAT members, apart from the ones which will be explained in detail at the different points of the agenda. Firstly, the end of the changes at the new membership system, which was extended with new options for members: joint invoices for more members, automatic pro-forma invoices

and online payments. Secondly, he explains how a more flexible approach to student grant systems was considered in order to update to the situation derived from the pandemic. Thus, online fees were also covered by these grants. Thirdly, he informs that a Generic Sister Society MoU was signed with IEEE CIS. He thanks Bernadette Bouchon for her collaboration on the signing of this memorandum. Finally, he informs about the inclusion of EUSFLAT Conference in the prestigious CORE Ranking.

Martin also shows a graph with the membership evolution since 2001 until the middle of 2021, where it is possible to see the good evolution of the society.

## **2.- Treasury Reports: 2019 Budget, 2020 Estimated Budget, 2021 Proposed Budget.**

**Javier Fernández** informs about the treasury reports. The main features were as follows:

2020 budget surplus: 5850.32 EUR

December 31, 2020 account situation: 43093.03 EUR

2021 expected budget deficit: 396.03 EUR

December 31, 2021 expected account situation: 42696.97 EUR

2022 proposed budget deficit: 1750.00 EUR

December 31, 2022 proposed account situation: 40947 EUR

Javier explains that due to the situation derived from the COVID, a lot of activities were stopped in 2020 and 2021, with the corresponding consequences on the expenses. He also explains that the expected final balance for 2021 and 2022 are a slight deficit, in order to try to avoid that the money of the society increases, since EUSFLAT is a non-profit organization. He also apologizes for the inconvenience caused to some members in Paypal payments and he says that he hopes that these have been fully resolved.

**The 2020 treasury report, the 2021 estimated budget and finally the 2022 proposed budget were approved by all EUSFLAT members participating in the Assembly.**

## **3.- Working Groups**

**Guy de Tré** starts with the list of the ten working groups. He comments that there are not many activities to comment, in part by the unusual number of conferences during this period. He comments that the Working Group on Genetic Fuzzy Systems has no activity for a long several years. He proposed remove it from the list, since no one seems to be interesting on coordinating it. He encourages working groups to organize regular online meetings. He also encourages them to continue the usual activities (Special session organization, Special issues, Conference/seminar/workshop organization, international collaborations, etc.). He finally remembers that two year ago it was established a kind of donation for establishing and organizing “gate opening” activities that should bring our community closer to other societies, especially the bigger ones like CI and AI. Unfortunately, this kind of donation was not activated from now, since no one applied for it, by due to the COVID. He ask the members to put attention on this.

## **4.- EUSFLAT Awards**

**Martin Štěpnička** provides the assembly attendants with a report on Awards prepared by **Eulalia Szmidt** who was not able to attend the assembly. He recalls Article 22 of the Society's Bylaws about honorary members, as it is detailed in the society website. Martin remembers that **Radko Mesiar** was approved by the General Assembly in 2020. She also announces that **Bernard De Baets** was proposed by the Board to be acknowledged as **EUSFLAT Honorary Member**. Then, Martin summarizes some of the main contributions of Bernard to EUSFLAT.

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

Congratulations to the awarded professors!

The three nominees to the **2021 EUSFLAT Conference Best Student Paper Award** were:

- Pedro Huidobro, Pedro Alonso, Vladimir Jani, and Susana Montes: Convexity of Interval-valued Fuzzy Sets Applied to Decision Making Problems
- Paulo Vitor de Campos Souza, Edwin Lughofer, Augusto Junio Guimaraes: Evolving Fuzzy Neural Network based on Uni-nullneuron to identify Auction Fraud
- C.B. Le and V.N. Pham: Fuzzy optimization multi-objective clustering ensemble model for multi-source data analysis

Martin informs that the winner will be announced at the gala dinner and that all the details will be also published at the web page of the society.

The **EUSFLAT 2019 Best PhD Thesis Award** is awarded to **Vinicius Francisco Wasques** for his PhD thesis entitled *Fuzzy differential equations via interactive arithmetic: applications in biomathematics*

The **EUSFLAT 2020 Best PhD Thesis Award** is awarded to **Simone Spolaor** for his PhD thesis entitled *"Fuzzy logic for the modeling and simulation of complex systems"*

The **EUSFLAT Scientific Excellent Awards** is awarded to **Janusz Kacprzyk**, for his deep and far reaching results in fuzzy sets and fuzzy systems crossing bridges to and cross fertilizing other areas of science and technology and **Erich Peter Klement**, for his outstanding and inspiring results in the mathematics of fuzzy sets, notably aggregation, and their applications.

Congratulations to the awardees!

## **5.- EUSFLAT Grants**

**Christophe Marsala** provides the society with a short report on student grants. The number of grants already provided in 2021 was 25: 2 grants for FUZZ-IEEE 2021, 19 grants for IFSA-EUSFLAT 2021 and 4 provided grants for WILF 2021, which will take place in December 2021.

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

## **6.- Mathware & Soft Computing Magazine**

**Humberto Bustince**, Mathware & Soft Computing Magazine Editor in Chief, introduces a short report on the main activities related to the magazine. 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. He also remembers that the magazine editors are preparing a new book, jointly with Rudolf Seising, with the different interviews published on the magazine in previous years. He speaks about the problems with the copyright of the photos used in the interviews. He is trying to collaborate with an editorial for the edition of the magazine, but we have not a positive answer by now.

## 7.- IJCIS

**Luis Martínez**, Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems (IJCIS), presents the annual report of the journal. First of all, he remarks that since Atlantic Press has been sold to Springer Nature, from May 2021, all the submissions are managed under the Springer Nature platform and the journal is now in a transition process. Thus, he encourages the working groups to propose any kind of topic that they consider that they should be included at the scope and aim of the journal.

He also remarks the importance of the extension of the agreement between EUSFLAT and Springer Nature from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Until now, he reminds that, although the journal is open access, the publication fee is waived for the first 20 papers per year which have as corresponding author an EUSFLAT member. The report is finished by informing that 35 papers co-authored by EUSFLAT members have been published in 2020 and the 2021 (until the conference).

## 8.- SFLA Summer School on Fuzzy Logic and Applications

The president remembers that **Gabriela Passi** found the first Summer School on Fuzzy Logic and Applications. He explains that although the SFLA edition in 2020 was planned to be held in Eindhoven, it has to be postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus outbreak and, unfortunately, this has to be also postponed to 2022.

## 9.- EUFLAT 2019 and IFSA-EUSFLAT 2021

Martin Štěpnička provides a short review about IFSA-EUSFLAT 2021 conference. Martin explains that it was originally organized by the University of Ghent and later moved to Bratislava, due to COVID outbreak. Thus, he has to thank the University of Ghent by its cooperation. He is also happy because this is a multiconference, since it is held jointly with the AGOP, IJCRS, and FQAS conferences. He informs that the event has 227 participants (124 on-site and 103 online).

Martin asks **Sebastia Massanet** to present EUSFLAT 2023. The next conference will take place in Palma and it is organized by the SCOPIA team of the University of the Balearic Islands. Expected dates are 4-8 September 2023. It will be held with the AGIP and FQAS conferences. Sebastia expresses his desire to see all of us in Palma in two years.

## **10.- Section**

**Javier Montero** recalls Article 27 of the Society's Bylaws about EUSFLAT sections. He explains that ESTYLF is the Spanish Conference dedicated to Fuzzy Logic and Technologies and the main ideas behind the proposal of being an EUSFLAT section. Steering Committee is also provided.

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

## **11.- New Board Elections**

The president recalls Articles 5 and 18 of the Society's Bylaws about elections. He runs the new Board elections. Only one candidature was received. The submitted candidature is presented. Then, the EUSFLAT members were asked to vote.

### **List of elected Board (2021-2023) members:**

#### **President**

Susana Montes

*University of Oviedo, Spain*

#### **Vice-president**

Vladik Kreinovich

*University of Texas at El Paso, USA*

#### **Secretary**

Zdenko Takac

*Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Slovakia*

#### **Treasurer**

Javier Fernandez

*Public University of Navarra, Spain*

#### **Additional members:**

Humberto Bustince (Link to IFSA and Other Societies & Magazine)

Guy De Tré (Working Groups)

Luis Magdalena (Strategy)

Christophe Marsala (Grants)

Sebastián Massanet (Web and Social Networks)

Nikhil Ranjan Pal (Promotion in Asia)

Gabriella Pasi (Publications)

Rosa Rodríguez (Atlantis Press)

Eulalia Szmidt (Awards)

**After voting, the candidature was elected by all the members at the Assembly.**

Votes FOR: ALL

Votes NOT FOR: 0

Abstained from voting: 0

**Susana Montes** is elected as new EUSFLAT president by unanimity. She thanks for the support of the Assembly to the new Board.

## **12.- Other Issues**

**Martin** asks for questions or suggestions to the board. Javier Montero proposes a big applause for Martin and his team.

Since there are no questions, the Assembly finished at 15:53.



Signed, **Martin Štěpnička**  
EUSFLAT President



Signed, **Susana Montes**  
EUSFLAT Secretary