

**ECCOMAS Young Investigators Committee Meeting
Crete, June 8th, 2016**

Minutes

Participants:

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Josef Eberhardsteiner (Secretary of ECCOMAS)

The meeting started with a general discussion on the activities of EYIC during the ECCOMAS 2016 conference:

- PhD Olympiads: the attendance in both sessions was quite large, with young researchers but also many experienced ones. In each session, 3 members of the EYIC were involved in the jury although they were only informed of this jury duty one week before the conference. For future Olympiads, EYIC members would like to set the program (committee, chairman, etc.) earlier. In addition, as the selection for national PhD awards is usually over in late February or March, it was proposed to start invitations for PhD Olympiads right away at this time (and not waiting for the information on the two final ECCOMAS PhD award winners), which would enable to save 1 or 2 months in the calendar and better prepare the Olympiads. This will be implemented for YIC 2017 and ECCM 2018, and it was proposed to contact the following organizers of these 2 conferences to facilitate its implementation:
 - YIC 2017: Massimiliano Cremonesi (Chairman), who introduced himself during the meeting
 - ECCM-ECFD 2018: René de Borst (Chairman), Chris Pearce (General Secretary)
- EYIC mini-symposium: Jaan and Alexander indicate that there are 2 sessions although it was hard to get speakers (700 emails sent, 30 replies with 20 negative replies). Nevertheless, it was said that if the mini-symposium is a success, the sessions should attract more people in the future.

Then, Alessandro and Ekkehard Ramm informed about the points discussed with the ECCOMAS Board:

- 2/3 of the ECCOMAS budget goes for Young Investigators (scholarships, etc.). The question was raised of alternative ways to distribute funds (establish appropriate filters, e.g., letter indicating that there is no other funding) in order to better target people who really need financial support.
- ECCOMAS would like to invest in social network tools (ResearchGate, Twitter, Facebook,...), and relies on the EYIC to help in this task.

Alexander informed on the current state of the YI web page and job database in the ECCOMAS website. The idea is to list all offers with filters, keywords, etc. and that the submission process is made with a single PDF job description. This task should be created through deep exchanges with Cristina Forace (replacing Iztok Potokar), and should be linked to potential databases existing in each country. It will constitute a great tool in the future, e.g., to hire people from all over Europe for positions within ERC grants. Gil suggests to think about using Web-/RSS-feeds to link with the websites of the national / regional ECCOMAS member associations. Since the time and efforts the ECCOMAS Secretariat can put into this are quite limited, it will be explored if GACM (who already have such a job database in place) can help in the setup and operation.

Eventually, several tasks were addressed for the next YI Committee:

- 1) check if associations confirm their representative member in the committee (in particular with respect to the limit of age of 40);
- 2) take advantage of task 1) to contact the presidents of the local associations to promote activities of the EYIC;
- 3) in local associations which do not have a PhD Award, try to motivate these local associations to introduce one. It was mentioned that this should be quite easy to do since the selection is already done in the context of the ECCOMAS Best PhD Award nomination / PhD Olympiad nomination;
- 4) put effort in the ECCOMAS newsletters (YI corner), promoting “readable” papers from members of the EYIC. As the next ECCOMAS newsletter should be ready for December 1st, authors of a paper have to be chosen very soon. In addition, the short (max. 1 page) YIC news section will be prepared by the new core group. The responsible editor for the next ECCOMAS newsletter will be Bert Sleuys;
- 5) introduce a Science Slam after the dinner in the next ECCM congress;
- 6) make propositions for the WCCM 2020 conference in Paris, in which a large activity of the EYIC is foreseen.

The last part of the meeting was devoted to the election of a new chairperson of the EYIC, replacing Alessandro. After the voting and validation by the ECCOMAS board (Ekkehard Ramm, Josef Eberhardsteiner), it was announced that Alexander Popp has gained the majority of votes. He suggested that there should be two co-chairpersons (Alexander Popp and Stefanie Elgeti), which Stefanie Elgeti accepted and which the ECCOMAS board members (Ekkehard Ramm, Josef Eberhardsteiner) approved. It was stated that the two new chairpersons have to constitute a core group very soon, and address the tasks mentioned above.