

The EUSFLAT General Assembly minutes

The EUSFLAT General Assembly for 2010 was held during the International Conference on Information Processing and Management of Uncertainty in Knowledge-Based Systems – IPMU 2010 at Dortmund, June 29, 2010 (19:15-20:45), with the following agenda:

- 1.- *Board report.*
- 2.- *New EUSFLAT Journal.*
- 3.- *New Mathware and Soft Computing Magazine.*
- 4.- *EUSFLAT Conference Awards-*
- 5.- *IFSA Associations.*
- 6.- *Endorsed Conferences.*
- 7.- *Working Groups.*
- 8.- *Treasury Reports-*
- 9.- *Honorary membership-*
- 10.- *EUSFLAT 2011.*
- 11.- *Other matters.*

1.- BOARD REPORT: First of all, Javier Montero as president of EUSFLAT reminded the current composition of the EUSFLAT Board:

- Javier Montero, President.
- Gabriella Pasi, Vicepresident.
- Dragan Radojevic, Secretary.
- Jorge Casillas, Treasurer.
- Bernard de Baets, Grants and Prizes.
- Edurne Barrenecha, Forum.
- Ulrich Bodenhofer, Web.
- Juan Luis Castro, Mathware edition.
- Asli Celikyilmaz, BISC & News.

- Oscar Cordón, Calls information.
- Marcin Detyniecki, Newsletter.
- Eyke Hüllemeir, Working Groups.
- Radko Mesiar, Projects promotion.
- Martin Stepnicka, Technological Offer.
- Eulalia Szmidt, Recruitment.

Javier Montero informed about some EUSFLAT news: **Legal and bank issues in Spain** (thanks to LLUIS GODO); **IFSA-EUSFLAT 2009 to ISI Proceedings** (thanks to MARTIN STEPNIKA); **EUSFLAT Forum**, <http://giara.unavarra.es/foro> (thanks to EDURNE BARRENECHEA); **L.A. Zadeh's 50.000 euro donation to IFSA** (discussed at the WCCI meeting in Barcelona, with several possibilities under consideration like grants for Conference Support with priority to institutional organizers -perhaps 2.500 euro each-, Best Papers Awards, Student Grants, Specific Educational Activities, Interaction with other Communities like IEEE or some professional societies, for example, etc.); **List of Fuzzy Teaching Around the World** (thanks to LUIS MAGDALENA, <http://ieee-cis.org/edu/university/>); **Janusz Kacprzyk**, elected Alternate Member of IEEE Fellows Committee (Board of Directors candidates for conferring the grade of Fellow of IEEE).

After some statistical data about the evolution of EUSFLAT membership (by June 16, 2010, EUSFLAT has 259 members distributed over 29 countries), Javier Montero informed about key problems to be addressed within EUSFLAT:

(a) Membership: competition with other European IFSA associations and other leading associations like IEEE; existence of a membership two-year cycle since EUSFLAT conferences are scheduled in odd years only, despite automatic recruiting campaign between past EUSFLAT members (thanks to ULRICH BODENHOFER). A kind and direct recruiting campaign in countries with few representatives has been recently done (thanks to EULALIA SZMIDT). A call to all EUSFLAT MEMBERS is made to invite their colleagues to join EUSFLAT.

(b) EUSFLAT Newsletter: Few reports are being submitted, implying a revision of objectives, policy and procedures. A call to all EUSFLAT members is made to submit reports. Calls and short term announcements should be moved to the EUSFLAT e-mailing distribution list (thanks to OSCAR CORDON).

(c) Mathware and Soft Computing: Negative answer from JCR Citation index. Juan Luis Castro resigns as editor and was kindly asked to finish current year issues.

(d) Administrative difficulties: All bank and membership affairs are being addressed by the EUSFLAT Secretary (thanks to JORGE CASILLAS).

(e) Web management: EUSFLAT Web site, possible changes needed (thanks to ULRICH BODENHOFER).

2. NEW EUSFLAT JOURNAL: After a detailed discussion about possible alternatives, the *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS* (Atlantis Press) was finally approved as the new EUSFLAT official Journal as the best alternative to *MATHWARE AND SOFT COMPUTING*. His Editor-in-Chief, Da Ruan, is a EUSFLAT member and there are eight EUSFLAT members in its scientific committee. Price charged by Atlantis Press is 10 euro per EUSFLAT member, to be included in membership regular fee (internet access only). The new EUSFLAT journal has been recently included in the JCR list (0.312 impact), publisher is extremely collaborative (offered a wide agreement for a deeper collaboration) and being a less established journal it allows the possibility of growing together under our influence.

3. NEW MATHWARE & SC MAGAZINE (extended NeNEWSLETTER): *MATHWARE & SOST COMPUTING* was approved to become a magazine, with the added subtitle "*The European Society for Fuzzy Logic and Technologies Magazine*". The new magazine will be in the spirit of IEEE CI Magazine and other association magazines. Basic structure should allow main contents of current Newsletter (including Ph.D., activity reports and relevant news from IFSA, etc.) and reviewed less academic but attractive articles. At least three editors should give stability to the project.

4. NEW EUSFLAT CONFERENCE AWARDS: the following two awards were approved to be acknowledged on the occasion of EUSFLAT conferences (odd years).

(a) **Best Ph.D. Student Paper** at EUSFLAT Conference: small economic aid or present plus 1 year membership according to certain general rules to be detailed (formal application in advance to conference; the student must be first author and make the oral presentation at conference -quality of presentation must be stressed-; application submitted to local chair, probably including a report from advisor; previously awarded students cannot apply for a second award; advisor is NOT forced to be EUSFLAT member; Commission: EUSFLAT board plus perhaps Honorary Members and some additional invited specialists with no interest conflict).

(b) **Best Ph.D. Thesis** award: small economic aid or present plus 1 year membership; formal application in advance to conference; Ph.D. defence held in the two immediate previous years (2009 and 2010); application (including thesis plus a short report form advisor) submitted to EUSFLAT President, or a previously announced delegate; Ph.D. advisor should be EUSFLAT member; Awarded Ph.D. students cannot apply for a second time; Commission: the EUSFLAT board will nominate a Commission with no interest conflict.

5. IFSA ASSOCIATIONS: Negotiation with other IFSA associations was approved in order to promote mutual discounts in second membership fee, mutual discounts in official association conferences and permanent presence in main/subscription web site. Currently EUSFLAT has some agreements apparently active: **Hungarian Fuzzy Association**, IFSA (25% fee discount, no members taking advantage of this discount), **Catalan AI Society** (25% fee discount, to be revised, 14 members), **Spanish Logic Society**

(50% fee discount, to be reduced or revised, only 1 student). In the last weeks **SIGEF**: has already agreed to sign such an agreement and immediate objectives could be **FSAT** (Turkey), **NSAIS** (Northern Europe), **RAFSofCom** (Russia) and **NAFIPS** (North America).

6. NEW REGULATION FOR SUPPORTED & ENDORSED CONFERENCES: A modification in the EUSFLAT endorsement procedure was approved, allowing two levels.

(a) EUSFLAT Supported Conferences: Event entitlement reserved to conference/event series; to be offered to strategic events; bilateral agreement with the supporting group or association (General Chairs) EUSFLAT correspondent needed (should be a EUSFLAT regular member). Services: access to EUSFLAT distribution list; permanent acknowledgement/link in main EUSFLAT site (logo); possibility of invited papers in a EUSFLAT publication; possibility of a special issue in a EUSFLAT publication; application to student grants (depending on budget, to be agreed in advance). Endorsed event counterparts: Fee discount for EUSFLAT members (to be negotiated); open call for EUSFLAT Magazine/Newsletter; report for EUSFLAT Magazine; EUSFLAT membership payment associated to conference fee (not a must).

(b) EUSFLAT Endorsed Conferences: Event endorse entitlement reserved to local organizers; applicant should be EUSFLAT member. Services: access to EUSFLAT distribution list; limited acknowledgement/link in EUSFLAT site; possibility of invited papers in a EUSFLAT publication; no application for student grants.

7. WORKING GROUPS: A new regulation to reinforce EUSFLAT Working Groups was approved. Current conditions: Coordinators will be asked to report annually to EUSFLAT Board; moral obligation from Coordinators to sign up as member of EUSFLAT. Approved new conditions (already checked by EYKE HÜLLEMEIER): Coordinator must be EUSFLAT member; annual report for EUSFLAT Magazine; periodical invited special session in EUSFLAT Conferences; periodical invited special issues in a EUSFLAT publication; Working group Web site updating; to be linked to/from EUSFLAT sites. A new technological offer map is under study (to be designed by MARTIN STEPNIKA, RADKO MESIAR and ULRICH BODENHOFER).

8. TREASURY REPORTS: Proposed budget was approved for 2009, 2010 and 2011, implying:

- No 2010 Mathware paper edition (hardcopies restricted to absolute needs).
- Change M&SC+Newsletter into an electronic open access.
- M&SC Magazine: Electronic access to IJCIS (10 euro per member, to be included in regular fee).
- Suppress hard copy distribution for other journals (open IFSA & publisher negotiation).
- Keep 40 euro regular membership, increase from 15 to 20 euro student fee (but including IJCIS now).

- Student Grants: 6.000 euro in total, up to 300 euro each; Awards: 600 euro: 1 Student Paper 200 euro at EUSFLAT Conference; 2 Ph.D. Thesis, 200 euro each, at biannual Conference.

Additional suggestions were made in the assemble, to be taken into account for the next 2011 General Assembly: the Board will consider to recover 2-year membership fees; a 10 euro regular membership fee increase will be considered; part of past surplus might be devoted to old Mathware & SC journal needs, Web maintenance needs, honorary member travelling needs, and new initiatives.

9. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: It was proposed and approved to acknowledge as EUSFLAT Honorary member to ENRIC TRILLAS, a prominent scientist and scholar, a person of extraordinary academic, personal and organizational qualities, who has discovered the huge potential of fuzzy logic since its early days, and who has since then been both contributing to its development through impressive and influential publications, initiating and supporting research in foundations and applications of fuzzy logic in Spain and elsewhere, and founding first ESTYLEF, transformed into EUSFLAT, as the most relevant academic and professional organization on fuzzy logic in Europe. Formal act with certificate will be given in the next EUSFLAT congress.

10. EUSFLAT 2011: The 7th conference of the European Society for Fuzzy Logic and Technology will be held in Aix-les-Bains, France, July 18-22, 2011. Sylvie Galichet as the Conference Chair presented the main information about EUSFLAT 2011.

No other matters were raised.

Dragan Radojevic, Secretary of EUSFLAT