

# EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR FUZZY LOGIC AND TECHNOLOGY

## EUSFLAT

### Minutes of the EUSFLAT General Assembly 2012

Catania, July 11, 2012

The assembly starts at 18:30 as scheduled. In the absence of the EUSFLAT Secretary **Martin Stepnicka**, the EUSFLAT Vice President **Gabriella Pasi** will act as Secretary during this Assembly.

#### **Agenda:**

- 1.- EUSFLAT Board report
- 2.- Treasury report \*
- 3.- Proposal of Statute modification \*\*\*
- 4.- Proposal of Luis Martinez to join EUSFLAT Board \*
- 5.- EUSFLAT 2013 conference
- 6.- Acknowledgement EUSFLAT honorary member: **Ulrich Bodenhofer**
- 7.- Acknowledgement EUSFLAT Scientific Excellence Award: **Didier Dubois**
- 8.- Other matters

\* Requires a decision

\*\*\* Requires approval of 2/3 attendants

#### **1.- EUSFLAT Board report.**

President:	Javier MONTERO, Spain
Vice President:	Gabriella PASI, Italy
Secretary:	Martin STEPNIČKA, Czech Republic
Treasurer:	Eduardo BARRENECHEA, Spain
Recruiting:	Valentina E. BALAS, Romania
EUSFLAT Magazine:	Humberto BUSTINCE, Spain
Web Coordination:	Jorge CASILLAS, Spain
BISC & IFSA News:	Asli CELIKYILMAZ, USA
Calls & Forum:	Oscar CORDÓN, Spain
Grants:	Bernard DE BAETS, Belgium
Conference Liaison:	Marcin DETYNIĘCKI, France
Working Groups:	Eyke HÜLLERMEIER, Germany
Outreach activities:	Radko MESIAR, Slovak Republic
Conference Endorsement:	Dragan RADOJEVIK, Serbia
Special IJCIS Issues:	Da RUAN, Belgium (+July 31, 2011)
Awards:	Eulalia SZMIDT, Poland

The President of EUSFLAT starts his report with some words in the memory of the Board member **Da Ruan**, who unexpectedly passed away on July 31, 2011. Born in Shanghai, September 10, 1960, **Da Ruan** got his Ph.D. at the University of Ghent,

Belgium, 1990, being **Etienne Kerre** his Ph.D. advisor. He had been working at SCK-CEN, Belgium, since 1991, launching in 1994 the FLINS conference series, and the ISKE conference series in 2006. **Da Ruan** was the founder of the International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems, currently the official journal of EUSFLAT. He was the editor of 36 books and the author of more than 270 papers in journals and conferences. Leader of many fuzzy logic projects within nuclear science, decision systems and risk analysis, **Da Ruan** was a hard worker, a helpful and inspiring colleague, a good friend and an honest and warm-hearted person. His friends at EUSFLAT miss him. A book on Da Ruan's memory has been edited by **Jie Lu** and **Etienne Kerre**, just published by Springer ("A tribute to Prof. Dr. Da Ruan").

The President of EUSFLAT reminds some information from IFSA:

- IFSA PRESIDENT (2011-2013): Oscar Castillo (Mexico).
- ELECTED PRESIDENT (2013-2015): Christer Carlsson (Finland).
- IFSA 2013 (Edmonton, Canada, June 24-28, 2013).
- IFSA 2015 (Oviedo, Spain, dates to be announced), to be organized jointly with EUSFLAT, as approved in EUSFLAT Assembly at Aix-les-Bains, 2011.
- Possibility of applying for support to IFSA (conference support, best papers awards, student grants, specific educational activities, etc.)

The President of EUSFLAT congratulates **Luis Magdalena**, Director of the European Centre for Soft Computing, Mieres, Spain, for the 2012 IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Outstanding Organization Award. *This award recognizes an outstanding organization that contributed to the advancement of theory, technologies, and/or applications of computational intelligence through inventions, new technology, innovative technical developments, new product implementation, or the management of innovative product design or production processes (IEEE-WCCI 2012, Brisbane, Australia, June 10-15, 2012.)*

The President of EUSFLAT presents some figures about the current number of EUSFLAT members. At this moment we are more than 285 members over more than 31 countries, having stabilized membership in odd and even years with a policy that implies more presence of EUSFLAT in more related conferences, allowing **interesting registration fee discounts** to EUSFLAT members in a number of conferences:

- IPMU 2012 (Catania, July 9-13)
- **ISCAMI 2012 (Malenovice, May 10-13)**
- SUM 2012 (Marburg, Sept. 17-19)
- SMPS 2012 (Konstanz, October 4-6)
- SCBS 2012 (Natal, November 6-9)
- LFA 2012 (Compiègne, November 15-16)

In addition, EUSFLAT members could obtain additional registration fee discounts in the conferences organized by some associations we have an agreement with (HFS, NAFIPS, NSAIS, SIGEF, ACIA). The EUSFLAT Board has distributed within some conferences a EUSFLAT flyer specifically designed for this purpose as a call to join EUSFLAT. Kind personal invitations to join EUSFLAT have been also sent to EUSFLAT past members and other researchers. Please help inviting your collaborators to join EUSFLAT, since joining EUSFLAT will bring back much more advantages than the EUSFLAT fee. The recruiting campaign has been intensified with a more spread student grants policy thanks to the effort of **Bernard De Baets**.

Each EUSFLAT Working Group has been offered the edition of an Atlantis Press book (open to other authors and subject to standard peer review process and strict quality). Each WG is invited to organize special sessions at EUSFLAT 2013 conference (as done in EUSFLAT 2011):

- Aggregation Operators: **T. Calvo, A. Kolesarova, R. Mesiar**
- Fuzzy Control: **F. Matia**
- Genetic Fuzzy Systems: **B. Carse, J. Casillas**
- Learning & Data Mining: **P. Angelov, E. Hullemeier, F. Klawonn, D. Sanchez**
- Mathematical Fuzzy Logic: **P. Cintula, C. Noguera**
- Philosophical Foundations: **R. Seising, S. Termini**
- SC in Database Manag. & Inf. Retrieval: **G. De Tre, G. Pasi, S. Zadrozny**
- SC in Image Processing: **M. Nachtgael, D. Van der Weken, E.E. Kerre**

The EUSFLAT President presents the report from **Jorge Casillas**, Web manager, who has been working on a new modern and better organized website that has been released on December 29, 2011, with the following features:

- Total integration of all resources in the same server (including Magazine and Forum)
- Powerful and friendly HTML editor via Web (it facilitates to transfer the tasks to a new webmaster)
- Complete treasury and membership management (user personal data, automatic records of PayPal payments, statistics, filters, data base management, data exporting, etc.)
- Private area for members (personal data, payment history, secure and exclusive access to IJCIS subscription, ...)
- New system to automatically check validity of membership (to check EUSFLAT membership when applying to a conference fee discount)

The main objective of these improvements is to simplify EUSFLAT management as much as possible. Thanks to **Jorge Casillas**, EUSFLAT Web manager, and special thanks to **Pablo Orantes** for his great work programming the Web.

Thanks also to Treasurer **Edurne Barrenechea** and his team, particularly to **Carlos López Molina**, who designed the EUSFLAT awards and the EUSFLAT flyer.

Report from **Luis Martínez**, Coeditor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems: **Luis Martínez** presents some figures about IJCIS during the last year, showing the great effort to increase the quality of accepted papers and to reduce the special issues queue. A problem with excessive self-citations has made that the journal, being still indexed, will have no impact in 2011 and 2012, but everything should have been fixed again for 2013, so articles submitted from now will be **published with the IJCIS impact back**. Thanks are given to **Luis Martínez** by the President of EUSFLAT, who points out the opportunity of this problem to convince publishers to bring the scope of the journal closer to the interests of EUSFLAT. The President of EUSFLAT makes a call to submit high quality papers, and he reminds that the success of this project relies on the EUSFLAT community.

Report from **Humberto Bustince**, Editor-in-chief of Mathware and Soft Computing, The Magazine of the European Society for Fuzzy Logic and Technologies: **Humberto Bustince** makes a presentation of the first two issues of our Magazine, he explains the main sections of the Magazine, and he invites the EUSFLAT members to submit states of the art, papers, recent advances, reflections, reports of workshops, history of Fuzzy Sets by countries, Soft Computing techniques, applications, etc. The Magazine aims to reach researchers working in the field out of Europe, and it also aims at bringing connections to other related fields. Collaborations can be submitted via <http://www.eusflat.org/msc>, or directly to the Editor-in- chief at [bustince@unavarra.es](mailto:bustince@unavarra.es). The President of EUSFLAT reminds again that the success of this project relies also on the EUSFLAT community. Special thanks are given to **Humberto Bustince** and his team, particularly to **Daniel Paternain, Aránzazu Jurio, Javier Fernández, Mikel Galar**.

The President of EUSFLAT finishes this report with some short words on some ongoing projects:

- Repository for future EUSFLAT Boards, in preparation (legal issues, documents, suggestions, etc.)
- Outreaching projects, under study (Fuzzy Logic & Soft computing repository, under study, Fuzzy-Wiki / Fuzzypedia / Fuzzyware, dissemination of open access packages. Links with similar projects from other associations, etc.)
- Agreements with other IFSA and national associations, under study (subject to changes in EUSFLAT statute, if approved).
- 2 years fee, hopefully for EUSFLAT 2013, in preparation.
- EUSFLAT I.D.: not necessary once membership can be checked via Web.
- Research Group membership: not recommended (rights and duties of a member have to be personal by law).
- Forum activation, in preparation (launching specific issues to be discussed).
- EUSFLAT Committer membership (approved in EUSFLAT 2011 Assembly but no application yet): 2 times regular fee (currently, 80 euro/year), decision by EUSFLAT Board based upon strict scientific criteria, can be claimed if leading a relevant funded research project.
- Activate Collaborative Entities and donations, under study.

Finally, the EUSFLAT President reports that it is being launched a correspondent network with other linked international conferences besides AGOP, ESTYLF, FSTA, ISCAMI, LFA, SUM, SMPS, WILF and of course EUSFLAT conference, in order to help for a better coordination of conference organizers and distributing information among EUSFLAT members:

- IFSA (EUSFLAT President)
- FUZZIEEE-WCCI (**Bernadette Bouchon**)
- IJCAI (**Ramón López de Mantaras**)
- IPMU (**Bernadette Bouchon**)
- AAIA (Urszula Markowska)
- AGOP (**Bernard De Baets**)
- CAEPIA (**Paco Herrera**)
- CEDI (**Luis Martínez**)
- ESQUARU (**Lluis Godó**)
- ESTYLF (**Lluis Godó**)

- EUROFUSE (**Bernard De Baets**)
- FCTA (**Vera Coelho**)
- FLINS (**Etienne Kerre**)
- FPM (**Rudolf Seising**)
- FSTA (**Radko Mesiar**)
- ICAISC (Leszek Rukowski)
- ICAFS (**Janusz Kacprzyk**)
- INCoS (**Eulalia Szmidt**)
- IS (**Eulalia Szmidt**)
- ISCAMI (**Martin Stepnicka**)
- ISDA (Sebastian Ventura)
- IWIFSGN (**Eulalia Szmidt**)
- LFA (**Marcin Detyniecki**)
- LINZ (**Peter Klement**)
- MANYVAL (**Brunella Gerla**)
- MDAI (**Vicenc Torra**)
- SMPS (**Rudolf Kruse**)
- SOFA (**Valentina Balas**)
- SUM (**Eyke Hullemeier**)
- WILF (**Gabriella Pasi**)
- Others under consideration.

## **2.- Treasured report: 2011 Budget, 2012 Estimated budget, 2013 Proposed budget.**

2011 Budget meets proposal as approved last year. 2012 and 2013 budgets have been elaborated under similar criteria as in 2011 General Assembly:

- No membership fee increase, 40 euro regular membership (student, 20 euro including IJCIS access).
- Web & administrative support: 1.400 euro in 2013 (700 in 2012).
- Student Grants: 4.500 euro/year (up to 300 euro each)
- EUSFLAT 2013 Conference Awards:
  - 1 Best Student Paper: 200 euro.
  - 2 Ph.D. Thesis (2011, 2012): 2x200 euro each.

After a short discussion, 2011 Budget, estimated 2012 budget and 2013 proposed budget are approved by assent (see annex I).

## **3.- Proposal of Statute modification.**

Proposal was submitted by e-mail to all EUSFLAT members by mid June (including explanatory notes) after discussion within the EUSFLAT Board and all past EUSFLAT Presidents.

Main lacks of current EUSFLAT statute:

- Honorary membership fees as approved in the last assembly.
- Current running of EUSFLAT Working Groups.
- Too open definition of EUSFLAT Sections.
- Update legal references and obvious misprints.

New issues addressed in this proposal of EUSFLAT statute:

- Acknowledgement of a small “Executive” Board (decisions remain on EUSFLAT Board).
- Procedure to add new members to the Board (death or renounce).
- No obligation to attend General Assembly (right but not duty).
- Sections to be associated to activities (in order to allow limited agreements).
- Regular and honorary member fees.
- Particular development issues (awards and others), to be regulated by General Assembly.

Detailed description for possible discussion:

- Chapter I:
  - Art 1,4: update legal references and address, including the range of activity (Europe, not Spain).
  - Art. 2: “Fuzzy Logic and Soft Computing” instead of “Fuzzy Logic and Technologies”.
- Chapter II:
  - Art. 5: Creation of a small “Executive Board” with no decision role (mainly to prepare General Assemblies if needed): President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
  - Art. 5: Board extension of 1 year if no candidates.
  - Art. 13: Possibility of provisional Board member, no vote meanwhile not elected in Assembly (absence, renounce or death).
- Chapter III:
  - Art. 19: Introduction of current Working Groups beside Sections.
  - Art. 20: Suppression in General Assembly of acknowledged Honorary membership.
- Chapter IV:
  - Art. 21: Possibility of alternative collaborative entitlements, to be regulated in General Assembly.
  - Art. 21: Possibility of distinctions and awards, to be regulated in General Assembly.
  - Art. 23: Members should pay the fee to be considered members.
  - Art. 25: No obligation to attend General Assemblies.
  - Art. 26: Honorary members do not need to pay annual fee.
  - Art. 27: Sections justified by specific activities (a delegate to be named by the EUSFLAT Board).
- Chapter VI:
  - Art. 29: Technical Committees proposed by the EUSFLAT Board (as before).
  - Art. 29: Working Groups justified by a common scientific topic of interest, proposed by a group of EUSFLAT members.

The proposed new statute is approved with 34 positive votes, 0 negative and 2 abstentions (see annex II).

Translation into Spanish will be submitted to Spain authorities.

#### **4.- Proposal of Luis Martinez to join de EUSFLAT Board.**

The proposal to join the EUSFLAT Board is approved by consent, so **Luis Martínez** will take care of IJCIS issues within the Board.

## **5.- EUSFLAT 2013 conference.**

**Gabriella Pasi** makes a presentation of the main issues related to the next EUSFLAT conference, to be held at the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy (September 11-13, 2013). Detailed information will be accessible at the EUSFLAT 2013 web site:

*<http://www.ir.disco.unimib.it/EUSFLAT2013>*

The EUSFLAT President makes a call to all EUSFLAT members to actively participate.

## **6.- Acknowledgement EUSFLAT honorary member: Ulrich Bodenhofer.**

Approved on EUSFLAT 2011 General Assembly: **Ulrich Bodenhofer**, third EUSFLAT Honorary Member with Francesc Esteva and Enric Trillas. As already approved EUSFLAT will pay their annual fees, and will be asked to supervise Best Ph.D. Thesis Awards.

*It is our pleasure to welcome Dr. Ulrich Bodenhofer to the distinguished group of honorary members of our society. Dr. Bodenhofer acted as the president of EUSFLAT for two consecutive terms, from September 7, 2005 to September 13, 2007, and from September 13, 2007 to July 21, 2009. Being associated with the Johannes Kepler Universität Linz as well as the Software Competence Center Hagenberg at the time of his presidency, at the interplay between academia and industry, Dr. Bodenhofer brought a spirit of professionalism to the society, most visible to the outside world through a high-quality website. Moreover, priority was given to attracting new members by clearly communicating the benefits EUSFLAT has to offer. Last but not least, his gentle attitude marked the beginning of a period of intensifying collaboration with other societies.*

**Edwin Lughofer** gives some words on behalf of **Ulrich Bodenhofer**.

## **7.- Acknowledgement EUSFLAT Scientific Excellence Award: Didier Dubois**

The committee created in the last General Assembly (all EUSFLAT Presidents plus previously awardees) has nominated **Didier Dubois** as the first EUSFLAT Scientific Excellence Award.

*For his deep insight and vision which have triggered and cross-fertilized new research areas.*

## **8.- Other matters**

The EUSFLAT President reminds again that the next EUSFLAT General Assembly will be organized at EUSFLAT 2013 Conference (jointly with WILF, Milan, September 11-13, 2013) where a new President and Board should be elected.

Minutes of this assembly at Catania will be communicated to all EUSFLAT members as soon as possible for revision by attendants of this assembly.

With no other issue, the Assembly finishes at 20:15.

Signed, **Gabriella Pasi** (EUSFLAT Vice President, acting as Secretary):  
Date: July, 16<sup>th</sup> 2012

Signed, **Martin Stepnicka** (EUSFLAT Secretary)  
Date:

Signed, **Javier Montero** (EUSFLAT President)  
Date: