

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR FUZZY LOGIC AND TECHNOLOGY

EUSFLAT

Minutes of the EUSFLAT General Assembly 2020

Virtual (Microsoft Teams), July 15, 2020

The assembly starts at 13:05, (5 minutes later than as scheduled) with 30 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.- EUSFLAT2019 and IFSA-EUSFLAT 2021
- 10.- 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
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, new contract with MPDI that includes the journal Mathematics is in an analogous way as journals Axioms and Algorithms, is mentioned. Secondly, the extension of the new membership system with new options for members: joint invoices for more members, automatic pro-forma invoices and online payments is presented. Thirdly, new support for activities at prestigious non-fuzzy events is announced.

Martin also shows a graph with the membership evolution since 2001 until the middle of 2020, where it is possible to see the good evolution of the society.

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

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

2019 budget deficit: 1458.91 EUR

December 31, 2019 account situation: 37254.71 EUR (3200 euros from 2020 fees included)

2020 expected budget surplus: 2480.53 EUR

December 31, 2020 expected account situation: 36535.24 EUR

2021 proposed budget deficit: 3900.00 EUR

December 31, 2021 proposed account situation: 32635.24 EUR

Javier explains that due to the situation derived from the COVID, several activities have been suspended or transferred to next year. Thus, some expected expenses have been changed to 2021. Apart from that, he explains the necessity of some administrative fees for legal advisement. He also explains that the final balance for 2021 is a slight deficit, in order to try to avoid that the money of the society increases, since EUSFLAT is a non-profit organization.

The 2019 treasury report, the 2020 estimated budget and finally the 2021 proposed budget were approved by all EUSFLAT members participating in the Assembly.

3.- Working Groups

Martin Štěpnička provides the assembly attendants with a report on Working group activities prepared by **Guy de Tré** who was not able to attend the assembly. Martin starts with the list of the ten working groups. He comments that there are new coordinators for two of them and that there is one third group which needs a new coordinator, so he encourages any interested member on taking this task. Then, he mentions the main activities carried out by working groups. He also refers to facilities (e.g., forum, tutorials or panels) beyond special sessions. Finally, he encourages international collaboration.

Finally, he suggests the idea of some financial support for establishing and organizing “gate opening” activities that should bring our community closer to other societies, especially the bigger ones like CI and AI

4.- EUSFLAT Awards

Eulalia Szmidt recalls Article 22 of the Society’s Bylaws about honorary members, as it is detailed in the society website. Eulalia enumerates the list of EUSFLAT honorary members and announces that **Radko Mesiar** is proposed by the Board to be acknowledged as **EUSFLAT Honorary Member**. Then, Eulalia summarizes some of

the main contributions of Radko to EUSFLAT. It is worthy to note that Radko had been active as a member of EUSFLAT first Board taking care of working groups and he was a member of EUSFLAT boards with different responsibilities for 12 years. He is still active in the collaboration with EUSFLAT, participating in EUSFLAT Conferences as author, special sessions organizer, co-chair, and IPC member and he will be a general chair of the EUSFLAT Conference' 2021 in Bratislava.

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

Congratulations to the awarded professor!

5.- EUSFLAT Grants

Christophe Marsala provides the society with a short report on student grants. The number of grants already provided in 2019 was 11 (6 grants for FUZZ-IEEE and 5 grants for EUSFLAT2019). There were not grants for LFA2019, since there were no applications. Christophe also explains that the number of grants for IPMU 2020 had been increased to 15, due to reduced fees (as a consequence of the conference being online). Finally, he comments that the plan for 2021 is to offer grants in SFLA2021 (postponed from 2020), FUZZ-IEEE 2021 and EUSFLAT 2021.

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, 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.

7.- IJCIS

Luis Martínez, Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems (IJCIS), presents the annual report of the journal, speaks about the current fees, number and submissions and rejection rate and indexes and impact factor.

He also remarks the importance of the extension of the agreement between EUSFLAT and Atlantis-Press for three more years from January 1st, 2020. In addition, he explains the agreement to publish 20-22 free of charge papers from EUSFLAT2019. 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. Until now, 15 papers co-authored by EUSFLAT members have been published in 2020.

About the EUSFLAT members involvement, he informs that there are 3 Advisory board members, 10 Area Editors and 6 Board members who are regular EUSFLAT members, but that new members on the board from EUSFLAT are welcome.

He also reports about the establishment of a bi-monthly newsletter, which is received by all the members of the society.

8.- SFLA Summer School on Fuzzy Logic and Applications

The president explains that although the SFLA edition in 2020 was planned to be held in Eindhoven the current week, it has to be postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus outbreak. Then, **Uzay Kaymak**, the General Chair, comments some details about the postponed edition, which is planned to July 2021.

9.- EUFLAT 2019 and IFSA-EUSFLAT 2021

Martin Štěpnička provides a short review about EUSFLAT2019, which was an edition with more than two hundred participants, 176 communications, combining full papers and abstracts and three special issues, with a special offer to publish for free about 30 extended versions in IJCIS.

About the joint IFSA and EUSFLAT conference, Martin explains that it was originally organized by the University of Ghent. However, due to COVID outbreak and especially due to the related local measures, the organizers were forced to stop the preparation in Ghent. However, Martin expresses his desire for Ghent to host the conference in the future. A new alternative venue was found in Bratislava in September 19-24, 2021, in cooperation with the three members of the University of Ghent: Chris Cornelis, Bernard De Baets and Guy De Tré). It will be a multiconference, since it will be held jointly with the AGOP, IJCRS, and FQAS conferences. The positive experience with abstracts gained in Prague will be followed in Bratislava too.

Once the new venue has been described, **Bernard De Baets** says that they are extremely sorry that they cannot host the event, after many preparations. Bernard also suggests to modify the budget for 2021 in the case of an emergency, given the present situation of uncertainty.

10.- Other Issues

Martin asks for questions or suggestions to the board. Since there are no questions, Martin says that the contact of any member with the board is welcome at any time in the year.

With no other issue, the Assembly finished at 13:53.

Signed, **Martin Štěpnička**
EUSFLAT President

Signed, **Susana Montes**
EUSFLAT Secretary