

Communique from the telecon of the Interim Board of the European Astrobiology Centre on 20 April 2018

The following items were discussed by the Board at the telecon:

1. Outreach

The Board discussed possible activities in the field of outreach. These include:

- Travelling exhibitions
- Spreading the Time Trek walk and the associated app
- Translation of popular science books into other languages
- Establishing a communication network across Europe with museums and science exhibitions and use existing networks of museums in order to ensure maximum spread of material once produced.
- Use modern communication technology for outreach

2. Dissemination

Several channels of dissemination were proposed:

- Streamed lectures
- continuation of the Encyclopaedia of Astrobiology
- extending the web bases lecture collection (AstroBiovideo.com)
- collecting a bibliography of recommendable books in astrobiology to make it easier for beginners to come into the field and find good textbooks in the jungle of literature

3. Review of the progress of the EAI

The Board suggested to install a Review Panel consisting of 6-10 internationally leading scientists. It was suggested to also recruit scientists from outside Europe and to avoid any conflict of interest between Review Panel and Management Committee members. The Review panel should be elected by the General Assembly upon suggestion of the Management Committee. The tasks of the review Panel will be to

- provide feedback to the General Assembly on the Yearly report and the Action Plan for the coming year
- conduct a thorough review of the activities of the EAI every 4th – 5th year

4. Website and Corporate Identity of the EAI

A preliminary webpage has been set up at the ESF website. The Board will now devise an architecture for the website and then fill it with contents. A competition will be launched for the EAI logo.

5. Organising the dialogue with the astrobiology community

This will be done via a discussion forum, which should be moderated. The Board will explore possibilities to implement this.

6. Time plan and meetings of the EAI

The Board suggested to hold a major event every second year in spring, alternating with AbSciCon. In the interim years a smaller, more specialised workshop could be held in connection with the General Assembly (or attach the meeting of this body to another event).

The Action Plan and the website of the EAI should be presented in June and discussed with the community over summer. The first public presentation about the planned EAI will be held at EPSC in Berlin in September. Also, it is planned to hold 1-day information events about the EAI in autumn at different countries in autumn to promote the EAI. Interim Board members and other community members should organise these in their respective countries. The first General Assembly is planned in May 2019. The time plan should also be discussed with the European Astrobiology community over summer.