

## **Communique from the telecon of the Interim Board of the European Astrobiology Centre on 22 October 2018**

### **1. Oncoming Proposal for a Research Infrastructure Research Community**

The main priority should be to the key research questions to be included in the proposal first. The Board agreed to draft these until the next telecon in the beginning of November.

There was concern about a possible overlap between the Europlanet and the EAI Research Infrastructure proposal. It was generally seen as an important thing to avoid this, but it was also stated there might be some synergies between the two proposals. It was suggested to embark on the following procedure: The Board will define:

- some key areas which will be the main domain of the EAI and for which overlap with Europlanet should be avoided
- some synergy areas in which there will be cooperation with EAI
- field sites and research into be included in the proposal

This should be the main issue for the next telecon in the week starting from 5 November. It was suggested to keep the UK teams in and, for the moment, assume an UK participation in the RI programme. However, in case of a “hard Brexit” involving the UK pulling out entirely rendering UK teams and institutions ineligible for funding, one has to reconsider their participation. This should, however become clear in good time before the deadline.

### **2. Research Infrastructures and Field sites to be included in the Research Infrastructure Advanced Community (Europlanet) and Starting Community (EAI) proposals**

It was agreed to draft up a list of field site, again avoiding undue overlap. This will also happen at the next telecon.

### **3. General Assembly in Liblice: Agenda, speakers, funding**

The first General Assembly will take place at Liblice Castle (28 – 30 May 2019) There will be

- 1.5 days for talks on the major future research themes and directions in astrobiology
- 0.5 days for discussing the Action Plan, the statutes of the EAI, election of the Board and any other matters (open end on second day).
- 0.5 days for parallel discussion in the Thematic and Activity Working Groups
- 0.5 days of a report and a launch event

The possibility to apply for funding from Europlanet for the meeting was raised.

### **4. Memoranda of Understanding and other juridical questions**

A Memorandum of Understanding for the EAI was drafted and will be circulated to the wider community via the discussion website in late November.

## **5. Any other business**

There will be a competition for the design of the logo and has already announced it at the EANA and AbgradE workshops. The dimension and resolution (pixels) should be given to competitors. The reward for the willing entry will be free attendance on one of the scientific meetings of the EAI.

## **6. Next telecon**

The next telecon will be in the week starting from 5 November 2018.