

**Minutes of the Second Meeting (telecon) of the Interim  
Management Committee of the European Astrobiology Institute  
24 September 2019, 13:00 - 14:45 CEST**

**Present:** J. Arnould, C. Boccato, D. Breuer, C. Briones, J. R. Brucato, J-P. de Vera, D. Dunér, W. Geppert, J. L'Haridon Kereszturi A., N. J. Mason, R. Motlep, K. Olsson-Francis, E. Szuszkewicz, R. S. M. Mas Hesse, V. Parro, R. S. Taubner, N. Walter.

**1. Opening of the telecon**

W. Geppert opened the telecon. The agenda was approved.

**2. Activities over the summer**

A 4-days meeting on the subject "Impacts and their Role in the Evolution of Life" was held in Tällberg, Sweden, 10-13 June 2019. The meeting was very appreciated by the around 60 participant and will be an important milestone for the Project Team "Impacts and their Role in the Evolution of Planets, Moons and Life." A 2-weeks follow-up workshop of last year's summer school on micro- and nanosatellites in planetary and atmospheric science was organised by the European Astrobiology Campus in Tartu, Estonia in July 2019. 4 teams have formed developing micro- and nanosatellite missions. There will be a 1-week follow-up meeting in summer 2020.

**3. Research Infrastructure proposal**

The management of the Horizon 2020 project will be performed by the Open University, since there is plenty of experience available at this institution for such undertakings due to Europlanet. K. Olsson-Francis and W. Geppert will get a write-up team together. An outline of the management structure was presented. There will be a first meeting of the write-up team in the first week of November.

J. de Vera raised concerns that it might be counterproductive to include facilities into the proposal that have been listed under Europlanet. N. Mason maintained that this is less critical but it was stated that an excessive overlap between Europlanet and EAI facilities should be avoided and it should be made clear that EAI is building a new community and not copying something that is already existing. W. Geppert reported that a clear separation was set forth for the two field sites that are planned to be both in the Europlanet and EAI proposal: Iceland and Nördlingen. In Iceland Europlanet will focus on hot springs whereas EAI will mainly do research on lava fields, solfatares, glaciers and Mars-analogue landscapes. Also the field sites will be managed by different entities: University of Akureyri for EAI and Matis for

Europlanet. In Nördlingen Europlanet is more focused on the physical aspects of impacting, and EAI will deal with the ecological consequences of impacts. N. Walter took the view that there should be synergy and coordination between the Transnational Access activities between the field sites and the lab infrastructures.

#### **4. Preparation of BEACON 2020**

Registration, abstract submission and accommodation booking is now open for the BEACON 2020 meeting. C. Boccato is leading the preparations of the outreach activities and J. Martinez-Frias and W. Geppert prepare the field trip. There will be a satellite meeting of AbGradE before the conference, probably in cooperation with EPEC. R.-S Taubner inquired if there is the possibility to stay outside the venue register as a day guest. W. Geppert said that this is possible but it will be difficult since there are not many accommodation possibilities and restaurants close-by. Because of the low prices of the hotel it might be a bad bargain anyway.

There are still vacancies for invited speakers and working groups should suggest persons. EAI can offer free accommodation and meals to invited speakers

#### **5. Field site development**

A. Kereszturi and W. Geppert will prepare a spreadsheet about the field sites to be included in the Research Infrastructure. W Geppert maintained that it was important to use the field sites in an innovative way, including training, outreach, conference excursions, involvement of citizen scientists etc.

#### **6. Status of participating organisations**

N. Walter reported that there have been 2 Memoranda of Understanding coming in. Member Entities will be requested to send in the Memoranda of Understanding, pay the membership fee and nominate delegates to the General Assembly until 31 December 2019 at the latest.

#### **7. Situation of the Board of Trustees**

All organisations represented on the Board of Trustees have nominated delegates apart from CNRS and CNES. M. Gargaud is following up with CNRS and a delegate from CNES will be nominated in October, this delay was due to ongoing reorganisations.

#### **8. Website**

W. Geppert proposed an architecture of the website which will be circulated with the WG on Outreach, Press and Corporate Identity. There will be a junior webmaster recruited. She/He will be offered free meals and lodging at BEACON 2020. There is money in the budget for the website setup and the winner of the logo competition, K. Teymoori has agreed with the optical design. We are also present on Twitter since last week at @EAIastrobiology.

#### **9. Recruitment of entities**

W. Geppert will prepare a 1-page recruitment letter for institutions.

## **10. Involvement into Mars Sample Return project**

A. Kereszturi has talked with ESA officials about an involvement of the EAI in the Mars sample Return missions. We will have a session or discussion on this matter at BEACON 2020. W. Geppert stated that this is a great chance for EAI and one could think of creating a Project Team on that issue. However, one should avoid to create the impression that EAI wants to encroach into existing teams and structures.

## **11. Closure**

“W. Geppert thanked the attendees and closed the meeting.