



# MINUTES | TELCON OF THE EAI MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

29 November 2019, Conference Call

## Participants

### EAI

- Wolf Geppert, chair
- Akos Kereszturi
- Doris Breuer
- John Brucato
- Michel Viso
- Victor Parro
- Thomas Henning
- Ewa Szuszkiewicz
- Antonello Provenzale
- Riho Motlep
- Zuzana Kaňuchová
- Emmanuelle Javaux
- Ruth Sophie Taubner

### ESF

- Emmanouil Detsis
- Jonas L'Haridon

## 1. Proposal for RI Starting Community grant

The Core Write-up team had a very productive meeting in Milton Keynes in early November. The team consists of the following people:

Coordinator: Karen Olsson Francis

Deputy Coordinator & Networking Activities: Wolf Geppert

Transnational Access labs : Jean-Pierre de Vera

Transnational Access field sites : Akos Kereszturi

Virtual Access labs: Inge Loes ten Kate

Project Manager: Louise Preston (OU)

Work has been distributed between the various team members. Also 5 field sites were selected including two in less-represented member states, and discussions about facilities for transnational lab and virtual access have been started. The latter could include on-site monitoring of chemical and

physical parameters at field sites. Industrial partnership have also been initiated. Fruitful possible partners could also be travel enterprises engaged in eco-tourism. This could be a win-win-scenario. Scientists could be engaged in training of field guides ensuring better services for tourists and co-operations with authorities could be initiated to promote protection of field site. Key leadership positions have been allocated and the tasks for writing up the different section of the proposal have been distributed. Logistic support will come from the Open University for grant management and collaboration with ESF for evaluations.

## **2. BEACON conference: status of preparation**

Wolf Geppert spent several days at La Palma on his own expenses to discuss logistics of the meeting and the outreach event. Many speakers have been invited. The speaker list is already looking great, but still need there are some answers missing and there is some need to look for additional speakers in several areas. EAI participants are encouraged to spread the word about the meeting.

## **3. European Council of Ministers meeting**

The Council of Ministers meeting agreed to fund almost totally the budget for the scientific programmes of ESA. The outcome should be discussed in the working groups, notably regarding the ExoMars rover and the Mars Sample Return programme. It was suggested to start a project team on the Future Mars missions. Akos Kereszturi also suggested to hold a discussion session on this subject at BEACON 2020 about this subject. The Management Committee supported that idea.

## **4. Activities of the EAI during 2020**

Apart from the BEACON 2020, there were the following activities suggested for 2020:

- An AbGradE meeting before BEACON 2020 at La Palma (17-19 April 2020).
- A summer school "Formation of planetary systems and habitable planets" in Torun, Poland in the end of August 2020.
- A workshop "Design of micro- and nanosatellite missions for planetary research" in Tartu, July or August 2020.
- A video production led by the colleagues at the University of Bordeaux (Muriel Gargaud will provide details on that project at one of the next Management Committee meetings).
- The RED basic training school will be held again in Bordeaux the coming spring.

Due to missing MoUs – see below – the management committee is not available to make any financial commitments for these events. Nevertheless, co-funding will be applied for at other organisations.

Wolf Geppert stressed the necessity of establishing a procedure for application for funding of EAI and EAI co-sponsored events. This should be in place for the General Assembly 2020 to allow this body to decide about events taking place in 2020. However, it would be bad to have no events happening in 2020.

## **5. Contact persons at ESF**

Emmanouil Detsis will be the main contact point for EAI at ESF, with support from two Junior Science Officer (Jonas L'Haridon & one other person ). Wolf Geppert will be meeting the ESF staff on 6 January 2020 to discuss organisational members and plans for 2020.

## **6. Status of participating organisations (MoUs sent in, contact persons)**

At the moment there have been 16 MoUs submitted, 10 are still missing. Wolf Geppert and ESF will follow up on the remaining ones.

The participant organisations are asked to check that the contact persons for the organisation are correct, in order to facilitate the invoicing process (and avoid delays). The invoicing should be carried out before the end of the year, and ESF is ready to proceed.

## **7. Website and social media**

Website, Facebook and Twitter are set-up and running very well. The Facebook account has about 1100 followers, with about 2 entries daily good feedback and lots of likes.

## **8. ESA postdoc initiative**

Jorge Vago is trying to convince member states to recruit post-doc on ExoMars, with the possibility of processing the funding through the EAI. The institute and especially the EAC could be engaged in the training of the post-docs. Discussions are on-going, and Wolf Geppert will keep the EAI posted about any update. Michel Viso indicated that there will be an ExoMars meeting at ESTEC from 17 to 19 December, and that this postdoctoral training programme needs to be supported by scientists.

## **9. Interactions with policymakers**

Nigel Mason mentioned that Europlanet will be approaching Member of the European Parliament in early 2020 with an information day, and EAI will be mentioned therein. Wolf suggested to compile an information package for the MEPs together with Europlanet.

## **10. Any other business**

Wolf Geppert has received a grant from the Swedish Research Council and he will have more time for research and to take care of EAI business from 2020 on.

## **11. Next meeting**

Next meeting will be held early 2020, preferably in the week starting from January 6<sup>th</sup> 2020.