



EAI
EUROPEAN
ASTROBIOLOGY
INSTITUTE

**Telecon EAI Wednesday 16 September
2020 13:00 CEST**

Participants

ESF

Emmanouil Detsis, ESF

Justen Russell, ESF

Mariette Vandermersch, ESF

EAI

Wolf Geppert, Chair of EAI, Stockholm University, Sweden

Carlos Briones, CAB, Spain

David Dunér, Lund University, Sweden

Dennis Höning, VU, The Netherlands

Emmanuelle Javaux, University of Liège, Belgium

Ewa Szuszkiewicz, University of Szczecin, Poland

Frances Westall, CNRS, France

Ina Catalina Plesa, DLR, Germany

Jesus Martinez-Frias, CSIC, Spain

John Brucato, Vice Chair of EAI, INAF-Astrophysical Observatory of Arcetri, Italy

Jose Antonio Rodriguez-Manfredi, CAB, Spain

Julie Novaková, Charles University, Czech Republic

Karen Olsson-Francis, Open University, United Kingdom

Nigel Mason, University of Kent, United Kingdom

Riho Mõtlep, University of Tartu, Estonia

Ruth-Sophie Taubner, University of Vienna, Austria

Thomas Henning, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Germany

Victor Parro, CAB, Spain

Agenda

1. Status of Working groups and Project Teams
2. Oncoming events
3. On-line seminars
4. Website
5. Any other business

1. Status of Working groups and Project Teams

Formation and Evolution of Planetary system and Detection of Habitable Worlds

Ewa Szuskiewicz is continuing the preparation of a white paper: The first draft is in preparation and will be released afterwards to all members. Wolf Geppert encouraged to work closely with the members of the working groups in setting up the white paper. Ewa S. will create subgroups to deal with every topic. A future action is to organise a summer school with focus on habitability, with link to other important topics for habitability as well.

The Path to Complexity - From Simple Molecules to First Life

Thomas Henning: We are still in the process to know how to start the Working Groups (WG). Difficulties to avoid duplication with existent work. It is probably best to avoid too many meetings in the community.

Planetary Environments and Habitability:

Ina Catalina Plesa reported that there will be a WG meeting on of October 5th to define next activities. They have also started to compile a list with names of members and keywords with their interests.

Evolution and Traces of Early Life and Life under Extreme Conditions:

Emmanuelle Javaux started a list with names of members and keywords with their interest with a deadline to reply until 1st of October. An international on-line workshop is planned in December/January.

Biosignatures and the Detection of Life beyond Earth:

Jean Pierre de Vera is absent to the meeting, but already started certain activities recently. Via email, he reported the following: 1) Proposed sub-topics of the Working group are set and distributed to the WG members and interested colleagues. 2) An Email with a provided table was send to the potential WG members with asking for their research interests and contributions or interest to the sub-topics. 3) The first online meeting of the WG will be started on October 21st 2020, 09:30 and 11:30 with checking if there are enough people to build subgroups and their tasks to be followed and also checking activities of team members and elaborate a common strategy also with relevance for sample analyses of sample return missions (such as Mars 2020, ExoMars etc.).

Historical, Philosophical, Societal and Ethical Issues in Astrobiology:

David Dunér: The WG is recruiting additional participants. In 2022 they are planning to organise a Summer school in Sweden on a subject dealing with historical, philosophical, societal, and ethical questions in an astrobiological context. Emmanuelle Javaux proposed to David to organise a session in AbSciCon on these subjects.

WG Policy and funding:

Nigel Mason reported that the first draft of the Horizon Europe programmes for space has been composed so we can start to look at options for EAI and the community to apply for. The document is to be sent to Nigel Mason and Emmanouil Detsis. A summary will be sent to the MC members.

European Astrobiology Campus:

Ruth Taubner started a poll for potential future topics for the on-line training courses to start in 2021. More than 60 answers so far. Wolf Geppert reported that the planning of the three in-person training events planned for 2021 is progressing.

Dissemination and Intellectual Output

The on-line seminars are fixed until February 2021. There is just one slot left (October 6th). A volunteer is needed to create a poster, advertising the seminars that can be disseminated across institutions in Europe.

Field Work and Field Site Management

The group will especially be active in the protection of field sites and developing of protocols to this end.

Outreach, Media and Corporate Identity

Julie Novakova stated that the group is preparing an exhibition in La Palma. She will also start to record interviews with science fiction authors in autumn. Activities are also prepared for BEACON 2021. The astrobiology game unfortunately did not get funded by Europlanet. The group is also preparing a competition to submit stories on Astrobiology (Science Fiction).

Last year, Jesus Martinez Frias published a science fiction novel (in Spanish) related to Planetology and Astrobiology ("The Darwin Message") and mentioned his interest to collaborate on this subject (Link: <https://www.ucm.es/otri/noticias-en-este-libro-de-microrrelatos-se-integran-ciencia-diversion-didactica-y-divulgacion>). The book was presented at the Planetario de Madrid and the Natural History Museum of Madrid.

Education

Riho Motlep will organise a meeting for Physics Teachers during the *Summer School on Micro-and Nanosatellites* next year. The dates need to be confirmed in order to realise the meeting before the start of the school year 2021/22. The group is also collaborating with the Ahhaa Science Centre in Tartu to work on a working platform that could be used by the EAI.

Industry Liaison

Iannis Tsomis is preparing a survey that he will share with the group later.

Access to European Research Infrastructures and Analysis Facilities

Jose Antonio Rodriguez Manfredi is planning to organise a call soon in order to define the objectives of the WG.

2. Oncoming events

BEACON 2021: The venue has capacities, but Wolf G. is pessimistic about the possibility of holding the meeting next year. If not possible, we would have the first BEACON meeting in La Palma in 2022 and the next in Iceland in 2024.

EANA: The plan would be to hold the meeting in Porto in 2021 and Bologna in 2023 but maybe Porto in 2021 is too early regarding the COVID situation. Wolf G. will stay in contact with the EANA president Barbara Cavalazzi.

Nigel Mason reported that Europlanet meetings in spring are being changed to online events as people see travel restrictions in place for the first half of 2021.

EPSC runs virtual this year and Europlanet plans to move ahead on online meetings in 2021 or the work programme won't be done otherwise.

The proposition was raised to prepare some online event(s) in 2021 to keep EAI together and keep the momentum. Wolf Geppert suggested to organize the MSR meeting in June 2021 as a hybrid

event, i.e., a meeting that could be attended both virtually and in person and also hosting the General Assembly. We need to contact the venue to know if they have the equipment to hold it that way.

Julie Novakova agrees that we need an interim online or hybrid event and should hold BEACON then in 2022.

3. On-line seminars

The planning is on track. Wolf Geppert posed the suggestion for a seminar on Venus and Phosphine on the 6th of October.

4. Website

Justen Russel gave an update about the website status: The domain can be kept, and the design is on track. The deadline for the new website to be published is planned to be by the next general assembly.

5. Any other business

The Free University Berlin and the University of Bologna are in. Membership of CAB is still pending.