



EAI
EUROPEAN
ASTROBIOLOGY
INSTITUTE

3RD EAI GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

05 October 2021, Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Participants

EAI

Wolf Geppert, Chair of EAI, Stockholm University, Sweden

Adrienne Kish, National Museum of Natural History, France

Alberto G. Fairen, CSIC-INTA, Spain

Alessio Galli, UNIFI, Italy

Alessandro Airo, Free University Berlin, Germany

Alex Price, Open University, United Kingdom

Alexandra Zetterlind, Utrecht University, Netherland

Andreas Elsaesser, Free University Berlin, Germany

Andjelka Kovacevic, University of Belgrade Serbia

Ania Losiak, University of Exeter, United Kingdom

Aurélie Marchaudon, IRAP CNRS, France

Akos Kereszturi, Konkoly Observatory, Hungary

Barbara Cavalazzi, University of Bologna, Italy

Barbara de Toffoli, University of Padova, Italy

Beatriz Gallego Fernandez, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Italy

Bulent Açma, Anadolu University, Turkey

Caterina Boccato, INAF, Italy

Catherine Walsh, University of Leeds, UK

Carlos Briones, CAB – CSIC, Spain

Carolina Martín Rubio, CAB – CSIC, Spain

Chaitanya Gokhale, MPIA, Germany

Dainis Dravins, Lund University, Sweden

Daniella Billi, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Italy

David Dunér, Lund University, Sweden

David Ruano Gallego, CAB – CSIC, Spain

Dennis Höning, VU, Netherland

Dimitra Atri, New York University at Abu Dhabi, UAE

Dimitra Demertzi

Dmitry Semenov, MPIA, Germany

Eduardo Alonso Pintado, CAB – CSIC, Spain

Emmanuelle Javaux, University of Liège, Belgium

Eleonora Bianchi, University of Grenoble-Alpes, France

Eva Mateo Martí, CAB – CSIC, Spain

Ewa Szuszkiewicz, University of Szczecin, Poland

Felipe Gomez, CAB – CSIC, Spain

Floris van der Tak, SRON, Netherlands

Frances Westall, CNRS, France

Françoise Pauzat, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, France

Gesa Bertrang, MPIA, Germany

Giovanni Vladilo, INAF, Italy

Hannah Calcutt, Chalmers University, Sweden

Hector Stavrakakis, University of Athens, Greece

Hermes Hernan Bolivar-Torres, Universidad Nacional Autónoma, México

Ina Catalina Plesa, DLR, Germany

Jean-Pierre de Vera, DLR, Germany

Jesus Martin-Pintado, CAB – CSIC, Spain

Joël Groeneveld, FNRS, Belgium

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

Jose A. Caballero, CAB – CSIC, Spain

Julie Novaková, Charles University, Czech Republic

Karen Olsson-Francis, Open University, United Kingdom

Keyron Hickman-Lewis, CNRS, France

Lena Noack, Free university Berlin, Germany

Laura GD

Laura Fernández Plaza

Laura Silva

Lucía Hortal, Free University Berlin, Germany

Maria de Lurdes Nunes Dapkevicius, IITAA -
University of Azores, Portugal

Maria Elisabetta Palumbo, INAF, Italy

Michele Maris, INAF, Italy

Mickael Baqué, DLR, Germany

Muriel Gargaud, Vice Chair of EAI, University
of Bordeaux, France

Natuschka Lee, Umea University, Sweden

Nigel Mason, University of Kent, United
Kingdom

Nina Kopacz, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Nozair Khawaja, Free University Berlin,
Germany

Nuria Huelamo, CAB, Spain

Ozge Ozgurel, University of Oslo, Norway

Pauli Laine

Pedro Mas

Petra Rettberg, DLR, Germany

Phillipe Nauny, University of Glasgow

Solmaz Adeli, DLR, Germany

Rosa de la Torre Noetzel, INTA, Spain

Riho Mõtlep, University of Tartu, Estonia

Ruth-Sophie Taubner, University of Vienna,
Austria

Sabine Viramoutou

Sergey Bulat, Petersburg Nuclear Physics
Institute, Russia

Séverine Robert, BIRA-IASB

Solmaz Adeli

Sonia Melandri, UNIBO, Italy

Tilman Spohn, ISSI/DLR, Switzerland/Germany

Stravo L. Ivanovski, INAF, Italy

Teresa Fornaro, INAF, Italy

Terence Kee, University of Leeds, United
Kingdom

Thomas Böttcher, University of Vienna,
Austria

Thomas Carell, LMU Munich Germany

Tony Milligan, King's College, United Kingdom

Véronique Dehant, KSB ORB

Victor Parro, CAB, Spain

ESF

Emmanouil Detsis, ESF

Mariette Vandermersch, ESF

Shorouk Elkobros, ESF

A total of 95 persons participated to the General Assembly.

Opening of the Meeting

Wolf Geppert welcomed the participants to this third General Assembly, held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Invited Talks

1.1 Invited Talk: From Molecules to Life: a Question of Molecular Complexity

Thomas Böttcher, University of Vienna, Austria

Maria de Lurdes Nunes Enes Dapkevicius raised that the approach to complexity presented could be very interesting for prokaryote taxonomy.

1.2 Invited Talk: The astrochemical trail of our origin, Cecilia Ceccarelli, University Grenoble-Alpes, France

Cecilia Ceccarelli could not participate to the meeting and Eleonora Bianchi did the presentation.

- 1.3 Invited Talk: Searching for Life on Mars by Rover Missions, Teresa Fornaro, INAF, Italy
- 1.4 Invited Talk: Planetary Habitability in the Solar System and Beyond Dimitra Atri, New York University at Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 1.5 Invited Talk: Thomas Carell, LMU Munich Germany
- 1.6 Invited Talk: Subsurface microbiology and the search for molecular biomarkers on Mars, Victor Parro, Centro de Astrobiología, Spain
- 1.7 Invited Talk: Is there a right to know about our origins? Tony Milligan, King's College, UK

General Assembly Business Meeting

- 1.8 Report of the activities and the 2022 Activity Plan of the EAI, Wolf Geppert, EAI Chair

W. Geppert first mentioned BEACON 2020, which had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. It has been postponed to April 2022. The volcanic situation on the island is followed closely to make sure that there won't be any safety issues to keep the meeting there.

Seminars will continue in 2021 and 2022, dates are currently filled until March 2022.

F. Westall raised that having the seminars on Tuesday is not the best date as ExoMars meetings are also on Tuesdays. W. Geppert answered that unfortunately it is very hard to find a date that suits to the entire community.

W. Geppert listed the different meetings and events planned in 2022 and 2023 (Summer Schools, Workshops, events, etc).

He then presented the activities and the 2022 plans of the various Working Groups of the Institute.

RS. Taubner asked if it would be possible to get an overview on the Early Career meetings, summer schools and workshops in order to share the information with the AbGradE community.

→ **Action: W. Geppert will combine a time schedule with all the events.**

Concerning the new EAI website, W. Geppert invited the working groups to nominate a webmaster to update their page. ESF is available for 1 to 1 meetings for personal training with the nominated webmasters.

F. Westall, as the leader of the board of trustees of EAI, congratulated the EAI for the amount of work done during the year, given the difficult circumstances. She raised that the EAI needs to search for funding in the next years and she was sorry about the 2020 proposal not being selected. She advised that the EAI needs to go beyond the current activities, by trying to submit new proposals, etc. She gave her best wishes to the institute.

W. Geppert agreed that EAI needs to create new collaborations.

J asked how many joint white papers of WGs "Formation and evolution of planetary systems and detection of habitable worlds" and "Planetary environments and habitability" will be published.

E. Szuszkiewicz answered that the Astrobiology journal is very interested in the white paper, but they are asking of research papers and the white paper produced by the WG is more about a review. The WG is wondering if they should go to the review format instead, which exists in the journal, but it has a limitation of words (5000 words), while the work produced by the WG is way longer. They are currently investigating for a solution but the idea of the working group on a longer term is to improve the white paper and search for fundings.

1.9 Proposed COST Action “The birth of Solar systems” and other activities of the project team “Physical and chemical processes in protoplanetary disks”
Catherine Walsh, University of Leeds, UK Gesa Bertrang, MPI for Astronomy, Germany

The action is in the frame of Horizon 2020 funding and the deadline is on the 29th Oct 21.

F. Westall gave her congratulations to the team.

1.10 The EAI Academy – an on-line astrobiology course Maria Paz Zorzano, Centro de Astrobiología, Spain, Ruth-Sophie Taubner, University of Vienna, Austria

All the information can be found on the CAB website:

<https://cab.inta-csic.es/formacion/academia/eai-academy/>

A page will be created soon on the EAI website.

→ **Action: ESF to contact Maria and Ruth-Sophie to plan a 1 to 1 meeting to create the page**

RS. Taubner asked the participants to spread the words to reach the maximum students as possible.

The difference between the EAI Academy and the “Rencontres RED Summer” organized by M. Gargaud and H. Cottin from the University of Bordeaux is that the EAI academy will be held all year and online.

It has been suggested to think about a collaboration between EAI and EANA communities and find a possible a joint programme .

→ **Action: Organise a meeting between W. Geppert and B. Cavalazzi to discuss collaboration between EANA and EAI**

1.11 Funding possibilities for the EAI under the Horizon Europe programme Nigel Mason, University of Kent at Canterbury, UK

N. Mason indicated that meetings will be planned by summer 2022 to discuss opportunities of fundings.

W. Geppert reminded that he sent a summary of the opportunities to the leads of Europlanet and EAI that needs to be commented.

A. Kereszturi mentioned the “RISE mobility fund” and the “Space Science and exploration technologies” as good opportunities of fundings and invited members who have companies in industry to contact him for potential collaboration.

K. Olsonn Francis raised that a plan is needed in order to have a chance to present a solid proposal and avoid cross over.

→ **Action: A meeting to be planned between A. Kereszturi and B. Cavalazzi to discuss the various funding opportunities**

1.12 The new ISSI team Lena Noack, FUB, Germany Inge Loes then Kate, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

A kick-off meeting is planned in November 2021 and will be held remotely.

F. Westall gave her congratulations to the team.

G. Bertrang raised the particular idea of building a database is very interesting and a meeting should be planned to discuss a collaboration.

1.13 Report of the Host Institution ESF staff

A. Marchaudon raised that the carry over for 2022 is small and that it would be wise to keep a part of the fundings for 2023. W. Geppert answered that this is a maximum budget allocated to each activities but it is needed to show the funding entities that the EAI is using the money provided.

Voting

The list of delegates for the 3rd General Assembly is:

CAB: Victor Parro, Carlos Briones

Charles University Prague (Geology Section, Faculty of Science): Julie Novakova

CNES : Not represented

CNRS : Aurélie Marchaudon, Grégoire Danger

DLR : Petra Rettberg, Ana-Catalina Plesa

FNRS : Veronique Dehant, Joel Groeneveld

Free University Berlin : Lena Noack

INAF - Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica: John Brucato, Juan Vladilo

Instituto de Investigação e Tecnologias Agrárias e do Ambiente (IITAA) - University of the Azores:

Maria Lurdes Nunes Dapkevicius

Istituto di Geoscienze e Georisorse (IGG-CNR): Not represented

Konkoly Observatory: Akos Kereszturi

Lund University: David Dunér

Max Planck Institut für Astronomie (MPIA): Gesa H.-M. Bertrang

Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun (NCU): Hannah Calcutt

Open University: Karen.Olsson-Francis

Stockholm University Astrobiology Centre: Wolf Geppert

University Libre de Bruxelles (ULB): Not represented

University of Bologna (UNIBO): Barbara Cavalazzi

University of Bordeaux: Muriel Gargaux

University of Kent: Nigel Mason

University of Liège: Emmanuelle Javaux

University of Paris-Creteil (UPEC): Hervé Cottin

University of Szczecin: Ewa Szuszkiewicz

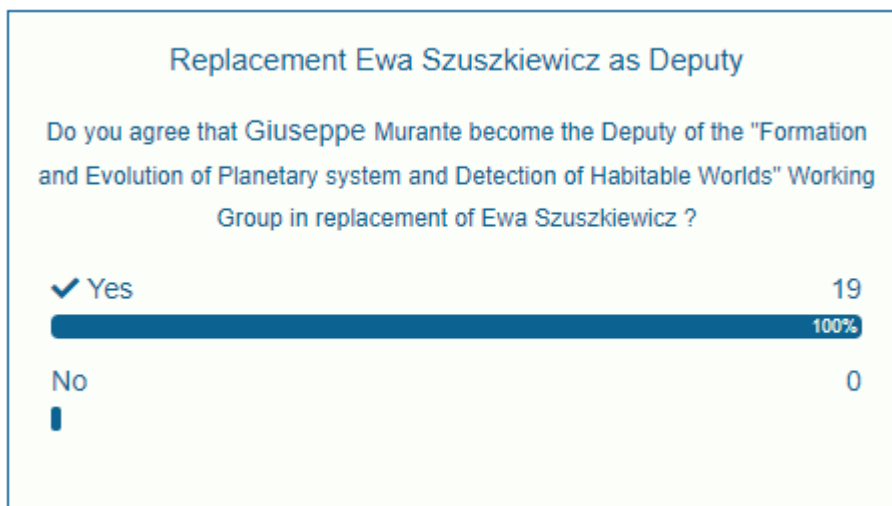
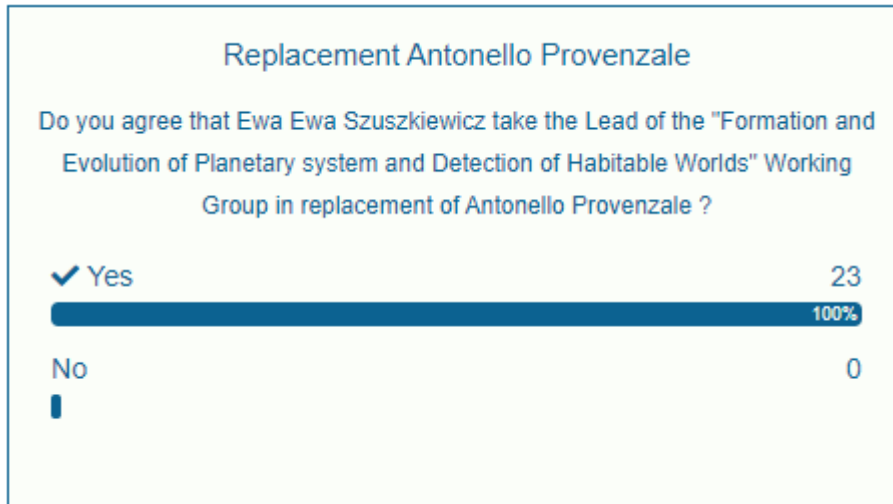
University of Tartu: Riho Motlep

University of Turku: Not represented

University of Tuscia: Not represented

University Paris Sorbonne: Not represented

1.14 Vote for replacement of resigning MC members

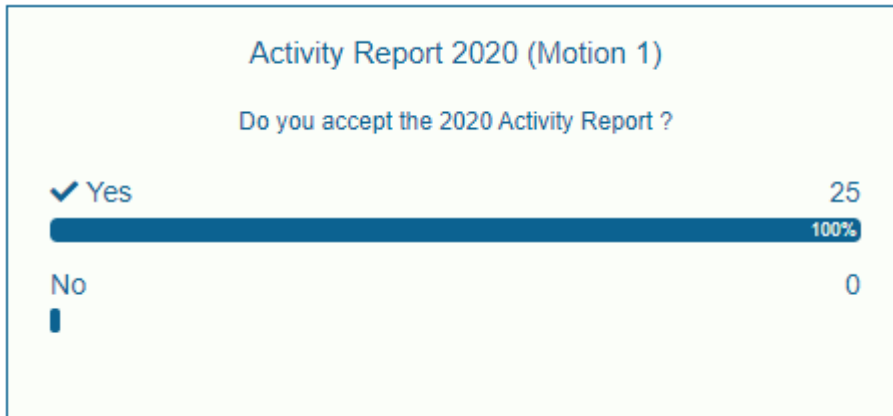


Caterina Boccato and Riho Motlep also resigned to their activities. No candidates were proposed and it has been decided that the voting will be done by email.

→ **Action: find replacement for Caterina Boccato and Riho Motlep and organise a voting**

1.15 Vote on Activity Report 2020 (Motion 1)

V. Dehant congratulated the EAI for its activities

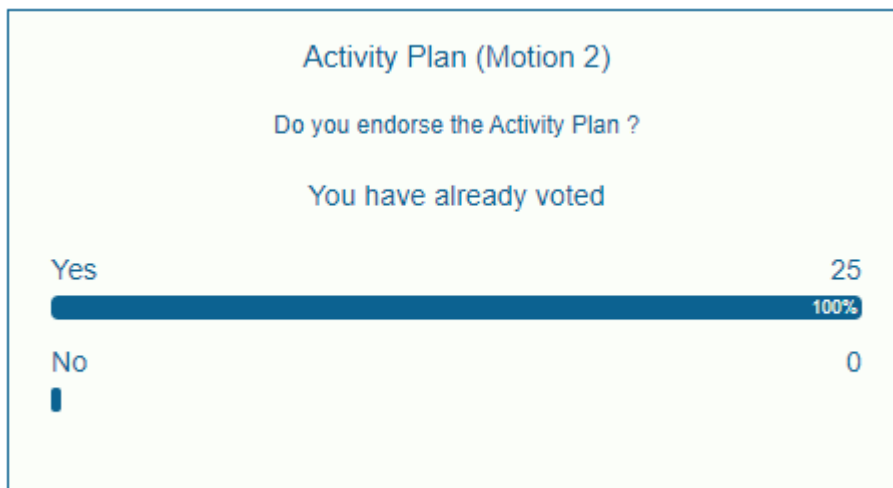


1.16 Vote on Activity Plan (Motion 2)

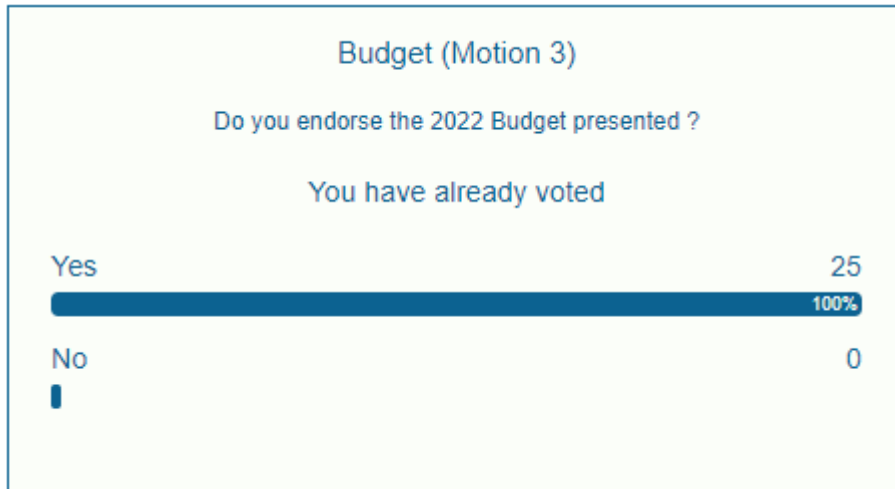
A paragraph has been added to the motion previously sent:

[See paragraph](#)

The proposition has been endorsed by the voters.



1.17 Vote on Budget (Motion 3) Vote on other motion



Summary of Actions

- **Action: W. Geppert will combine a time schedule with all the events.**
- **Action: ESF to contact Maria and Ruth-Sophie to plan a 1 to 1 meeting to create the page of the EAI Academy on the EAI website**
- **Action: Organise a meeting between W. Geppert and B. Cavalazzi to discuss collaboration between EANA and EAI**
- **Action: A meeting to be planned between A. Kereszturi and B. Cavalazzi to discuss the various funding opportunities**
- **Action: find replacement for Caterina Boccato and Riho Motlep and organise a voting**