



**EAI**  
EUROPEAN  
ASTROBIOLOGY  
INSTITUTE

## 4<sup>TH</sup> EAI GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

3 June 2022, Höör, Sweden

### Participants

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#### Physical Participation - Höör

**Wolf Geppert**, Chair of EAI, Stockholm University, Sweden

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

**Carlos Briones**, CAB – CSIC, Spain

**Caterina Boccato**, INAF, Italy

**Cyrille Jeancolas**, University of Durham, UK

**David Dunér**, Lund University, Sweden

**Emmanuelle Javaux**, University of Liège, Belgium

**Erik Persson**, Lund University, Sweden

**Jacques Arnould**, CNES, France

**Kala Perkins**, AUN, USA

**Mariette Vandermersch**, ESF

**Natuschka Lee**, Umea University, Sweden

**Shorouk Elkobros**, ESF

**Dmitry Semenov**, MPIA, Germany

**Ewa Szuszkiewicz**, University of Szczecin, Poland

**Frances Westall**, CNRS, France

**François Raulin**, UPEC, France

**Giuseppe Murante**, IGG-CNR, Italy

**Grégoire Danger**, CNRS, France

**Hamed Pourkhorsandi**, ULB, Belgium

**Jean-Pierre de Vera**, DLR, Germany

**Joël Groeneveld**, FNRS, Belgium

**Jose A. Caballero**, CAB – CSIC, Spain

**Laura Silva**, INAF, Italy

**Lena Noack**, Free university Berlin, Germany

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

**Nigel Mason**, University of Kent, United Kingdom

**Petra Rettberg**, DLR, Germany

**Riho Mõtlep**, University of Tartu, Estonia

**Ruth-Sophie Taubner**, University of Vienna, Austria

**Véronique Dehant**, FNRS, Belgium

**Veronique Vuitton**, CNRS, France

#### Remote Participation - Zoom

**Andjelka Kovacevic**, University of Belgrade Serbia

**Aurélie Marchaudon**, IRAP CNRS, France

**Akos Kereszturi**, Konkoly Observatory, Hungary

**Barbara Cavalazzi**, University of Bologna, Italy

A total of 37 persons participated to the EAI General Assembly.

### Welcome

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The meeting started by the election of the president of the meeting : Wolf Geppert has been elected to take up this role. He mentioned that it would be preferable to have another person than the Acting Chair to preside the Assembly but having an hybrid meeting was a the technical challenge. The participants then approved the agenda of the meeting.

The board of trustees has approved the Yearly Report (Motion 1) and the action plan (Motion 2) previously to the meeting. Frances Westall, president of the Board, congratulated the EAI, she said

that she was impressed by the work done. She notably mentioned that she is delighted that the EAI involves many early career scientists in leading positions.

## Report of the activities of the EAI

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*Wolf Geppert, EAI Chair*

Wolf Geppert summarised the Activity Report of the EAI covering activities of the EAI in 2021 and early 2022.

He mentioned that BEACON 2021 had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and the volcanic eruption. BEACON 2023 will be announced during the EPSC 2022 and is planned in May 2023.

He also mentioned the on-line activities and the EAI Seminars and the EAI Academy, which were very successful so far, attracting a good participation. C Briones also thanked the organizing team of the EAI Academy.

Wolf Geppert also reported about Red 21 (on-line) and 22 (in person), organised by the University of Bordeaux, which EAI is supporting.

He also mentioned the Summer School “Life on Earth and Beyond”, which took place just before the General Assembly on the Ven island, and was very successful with 45 participants and got very good feedback.

The “Astrobiology and Society” event, taking place right after the Ven Summer School in Höör, Sweden, was also very appreciated by the participants.

Conversely the “Summer School of Formation of planetary systems and detection of habitable planets and moons” had to be postponed due to a sabbatical leave of the main organiser (Agata Karska). The Institute hopes to have this summer school organized in spring 2023.

W. Geppert then described the activities of the EAI Working Groups and Project Teams in detail.

E Szuszkiewicz mentioned that the PT on “Physical and Chemical Processes in Protoplanetary Discs” was not successful in their bid for a COST Action this time but they will try again later.

He also congratulated Julie Nováková and her Project Team “Science Fiction as a tool for Astrobiology outreach and Education” for the very successful Kickstarter campaign (crowdfunding) for her “Life Beyond Us” Anthology, which unlocked all stretch goals. The Anthology will contain 22 science fiction stories and 22 short science essays explaining the science behind the sci-fi plots to allow the reader to distinguish between science and fiction.

## Report of the Host Institution

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*ESF staff*

M Vanderersch introduced the activities done by the ESF Staff, as well as the status of accounts for 2021. W Geppert thanked the ESF team for its support.

## Presentation of the Activity Plan and budget for coming year

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*Wolf Geppert, EAI Chair*

Wolf Geppert introduced the activity plan for the incoming year. BEACON 2023, summer schools, seminars and EAI Academy are planned.

The next Summer School, "Life in the Sub-Surface: Habitats, species, metabolism and survival strategies" will take place from 25th to 27th of October 2022 in Angra do Heroísmo, Azores, Portugal. After the meeting, a field trip will be organized (exploring lava caves with rich microbial life solfatares, lava fields, hot springs)

In a short term, EAI will ask their Participating Organisation to update list of local coordinators

Frances Westall asked more details about the Red School (Red 21) and W Geppert mentioned that it albeit it was in the beginning a French initiatives, it had developed into a European one so that this is why EAI is supporting this initiative. Only participants belonging to EAI institutions were funded.

Maria de Lurdes Nunes Enes Dapkevičius in the chat: "Thank you for your comprehensive presentation. In spite of the pandemics and natural disaster situations, a lot has been accomplished." She then asked to elaborate more on plans the conservation of sampling site, W. Geppert answered that vandalism and careless exploitation of caves was getting a big problem in some countries. M. L. Dapkevičius suggested to prepare a list of viable field site, and how to permit samples there.

V Dehant also congratulates the EAI for its activities. She asked about the long term strategy of the Institute (involvement in any ESA survey, etc). W Geppert answered that this is a very important point and this should be discussed broadly with the Institute. Nevertheless,, it should be priority to get the Working Groups running. J Caballero added that some individuals of EAI are involved (individually, institutionally) in ESA missions of clear astrobiological interest (mission to Europa, Large Interferometer For Exoplanets...) but joining as EAI to ESA missions would complicated

Regarding the application for future grants, Nigel Mason mentioned that he can send an overview of possible calls for everyone if that helps, and that astrobiology is being named in European strategy papers even if definition is somewhat different to different groups.

Caterina Boccato came with a suggestion to merge the "Corporate Identity, Public Engagement" WG with the Education WG (dedicated to primary and secondary school). This new WG would have a leader and a deputy. The WG will submit a form to everybody involved in EAI to ask if they would be interested in participating to outreach activities.

G Murante mentioned that he agrees with this proposal. In Trieste they have a large program of outreach in Astrobiology, and can easily do that under EAI hat also. There is also an ongoing show, Extreme, by E. Bisesi et al. J Caballero mentioned that this Extreme would be further developed under the new "AstroBioArt" project team.

Indeed, he plans to launch an "Astrobiology and Art" project Team: he introduced the idea to the participants. This Project Team would be inside the Outreach WG, to disseminate pieces of art linked to Astrobiology (excluding literature, already taken care of by the Science Fiction Project Team itself). The Chair of this "Astrobiology and Art" Project Team will be Jose A Caballero from Spain and the deputy coordinator would be Maria Sundin from Sweden. C. Boccato mentioned that this would be a fundamental initiative and supports this fully.

## Vote

The list of Delegates attending to this General Assembly representing their institution is given. Core Organisations (CAB, CNES, CNRS, DLR, FNRS and INAF) are authorized to send two delegates.

Institution	Delegates
<b>CAB</b>	Carlos Briones
Charles University Prague (Geology Section, Faculty of Science)	Julie Nováková (could not attend)
<b>CNES</b>	Jacques Arnould
<b>CNRS</b>	Grégoire Danger Veronique Vuitton
<b>DLR</b>	Petra Rettberg
<b>FNRS</b>	Veronique Dehant Joel Groeneveld
Free University Berlin	Lena Noack
<b>INAF - Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica</b>	Laura Silva Caterina Boccato
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)	Giuseppe Murante
Konkoly Observatory	Akos Kereszturi
Lund University	David Dunér
Max Planck Institut für Astronomie (MPAI)	Dmitry Semenov
Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun (NCU)	Not represented
Open University	Not represented
Stockholm University Astrobiology Centre	Wolf Geppert
University Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)	Hamed Pourkhorsandi
University of Bologna (UNIBO)	Barbara Cavalazzi
University of Bordeaux	Muriel Gargaud
University of Kent	Nigel Mason
University of Liège	Emmanuelle Javaux
University of Paris-Creteil (UPEC)	Francois Raulin
University of Szczecin	Ewa Szuszkiewicz
University of Tartu	Riho Motlep
Sorbonne Université	Not represented

### 1.1 Vote on Activity Report 2020 (Motion 1)

Do you approve the 2021 Activity Report ?

16 Votes online, 1 yes per email and 7 yes in the meeting room

## Activity Report 2021 (Motion 1)

1:53 | 1 question | 16 of 18 (88%) participated

1. Do you approve the 2021 Activity Report ? (Single Choice) \*

16/16 (100%) answered



## 1.2 Vote on Activity Plan (Motion 2)

Do you approve the 2022-2023 Activity Plan ?

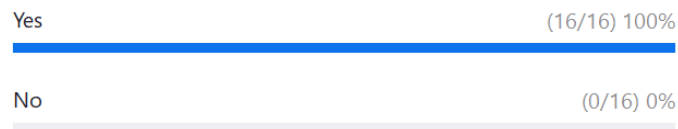
16 Votes online, 1 yes per email and 7 yes in the meeting room

## Activity Plan (Motion 2)

1:25 | 1 question | 16 of 19 (84%) participated

1. Do you approve the 2022-2023 Activity Plan ? (Single Choice) \*

16/16 (100%) answered



## 1.3 Vote on Budget (Motion 3)

Do you approve the preliminary budget for the fiscal year 2023 ?

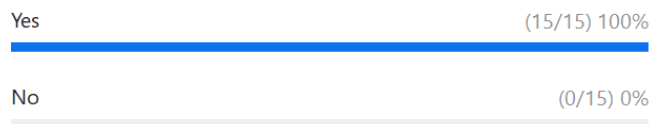
15 Votes online, 1 yes per email and 7 yes in the meeting room

## Budget 2023 (Motion 3)

Poll | 1 question | 15 of 19 (78%) participated

1. Do you approve the preliminary budget for the fiscal year 2023 ?  
(Single Choice) \*

15/15 (100%) answered



## 1.4 Vote on other motions (Motion 4)

Do you approve the creation of the "Astrobiology and Art" project Team, led by José Caballero and Maria Sundin?

16 Votes online, 1 yes per email and 7 yes in the meeting room

## Astrobiology and Art (Motion 4)

Poll | 1 question | 16 of 19 (84%) participated

1. Do you approve the creation of the "Astrobiology and Art" project Team, led by José Caballero ? (Single Choice) \*

16/16 (100%) answered

Yes (16/16) 100%



No (0/16) 0%



### 1.5 Vote for the MC

Concerning the Management Committee, in the "Historical, Philosophical, Societal and Ethical Issues in Astrobiology" Working Group, David Dunér will be replaced by Erik Persson as the new Chair and Jacques Arnould will leave as a Deputy, thus a replacement is needed for him.

For the EAC (European Astrobiology Campus), Kalle Kirsimäe will be replaced by Riho Motlep.

Do you approve the proposed Management Committee ?

16 Votes online, 1 yes per email and 7 yes in the meeting room

## Management Committee

Poll | 1 question | 16 of 18 (88%) participated

1. Do you approve the proposed Management Committee ? (Single Choice) \*

16/16 (100%) answered

Yes (16/16) 100%



No (0/16) 0%



The final List of the Management Committee will be shared on the website. Wolf Geppert thanked all the participants and closed the General Assembly.