|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | 5th EAI General Assembly MEETING  *9 May 2023, La Palma, Spain* |

# Participants

**Physical Participation – La Palma**

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

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

**John Robert Brucato, Vice Chair of EAI**, INAF, IT

**Jacques Arnould**, CNES, France

**Michael Baqué**, DLR, Germany

**Emmanuelle Bolmont**, University of Geneva, CH

**Erica Bisesi**,

**Alexis Bouquet**, University of Marseille

**Carlos Briones**, CAB – CSIC, Spain

**Jose Caballero**, CAB, Spain

**Barbara Cavalazzi**, Unibo, Italy

**Adam Culka**, Charles University, Czech Republic

**Hervé Cottin**, LISA, France

**Grégoire Danger**, University AMU, France

**Vinciane Debaille**, ULB, Belgium

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

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

**Thomas Henning**, MPAI, DE

**Keyron Hickman-Lewis**, Board of Trustees, Natural History Museum London‬

**Akos Kereszturi,** Konkoly Observatory, Hungary

**Yannick Lara**, University of Liège

**Nigel Mason**, Kent University, UK

**Riho Motlep**, University of Tartu, Estonia

**Giuseppe Murante**, INAF, Italy

**Andrzej Niedzielski**, NCU, Poland

**Lena Noack**, Freïe Universität Berlin, Germany

**Victor Parro**, CAB, Spain

**Kala Perkins**, Independent researcher, USA

**Erik Persson**, Lund University, Sweden

**Marco Saitta, Sorbonne université, France**

**Laura Silva, INAF, Italy**

**Ewa Szuszkiewicz**, University of Szczecin, PL

**Ruth-Sophie Taubner**, IWF-OaW, AU

**Véronique Vuitton**, CRNS, France

**Remote Participation – Zoom**

**Olivia Venot**, CNRS, France

**Purificación López-Garcìa**, CNRS, France

**ESF Staff**

**Courtney Allison**, ESF

**Mariette Vandermersch-Desmartin**, ESF

# Agenda

1. Opening
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Election of General Assembly Chair
4. Report of Activities of the EAI for the years 2022 and 2023 (Wolf Geppert, EAI Chair), and the Action Plan  followed by discussion
5. Presentation of Administrative report (Mariette Vandermersch, ESF) followed by discussion
6. Presentation of Budget for 2024 (Wolf Geppert, EAI Chair), followed by discussion
7. Vote on Motion 1 (Activity Report)
8. Vote on Motion 2 (Action Plan)
9. Vote on Motion 3 (Budget)
10. Substitution election for the Deputy Leader of the Working Group "Evolution and Traces of Early Life and Life under Extreme Conditions"
11. Any other business

# Opening

Apart from 2 institutions, all the participating entities of EAI were represented for this 5th General Assembly.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Institution** | **Delegate 1** | **Delegate 2** |
| **CAB** | Victor Parro | Carlos Briones |
| Charles University, Geology Section, Faculty of Science | Adam Culka |  |
| **CNES** | Jacques Arnould |  |
| **CNRS** | Veronique Vuitton | Grégoire Danger |
| **DLR - German Aerospace Center** | Mickael Baqué |  |
| **FNRS** | Emmanuelle Javaux |  |
| Freie Universität Berlin | Lena Noack |  |
| IITAA - University of the Azores | No representative |  |
| **INAF - Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica** | John Robert Brucato | Laura Silva |
| Istituto di Geoscienze e Georisorse (IGG-CNR) | Giuseppe Murante |  |
| Kent University | Nigel Mason |  |
| Konkoly Observatory | Akos Kereszturi |  |
| Lund University | Erik Persson |  |
| Max Planck Institut für Astronomie (MPAI) | Thomas Henning |  |
| Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun (NCU) | Andrzej Niedzielski |  |
| Open University | No representative |  |
| Sorbonne Université | Marco Saitta |  |
| Stockholm University Astrobiology Centre | Wolf Geppert |  |
| University Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) | Vinciane Debaille |  |
| University of Bologna (UNIBO) | Barbara Cavalazzi |  |
| University of Bordeaux | Muriel Gargaud |  |
| University of Geneva | Emeline Bolmont |  |
| University of Liège | Yannick Lara |  |
| University of Paris-Creteil (UPEC) | Hervé Cottin |  |
| University of Szczecin | Ewa Szuszkiewicz |  |
| University of Tartu | Riho Motlep |  |
| Marseille | Alexis Bouquet |  |

\* Institution in bold are Core Institutions, authorized to name 2 delegates.

# Approval of Agenda

RS Taubner suggested to add an update on the AbGraDE activities.

The assembly approved this adding to the agenda, as well as the general agenda.

# Election of General Assembly Chair

WG has been named as the Chair of the General Assembly.

# Report of Activities of the EAI for the years 2022 and 2023 (Wolf Geppert, EAI Chair), and the Action Plan  followed by discussion

The PowerPoint Presentation will be sent to everybody. Additional comments from the presentation are listed below.

## Working groups and project teams

**Formation and evolution of planetary systems and detection of habitable worlds:** The collaborative paper will most likely be published in Autumn in Space Science Reviews.

**Planetary Environment and Habitability**: They will collaborate on the paper with the abobve-mentioned WG.

**Pathway to complexity from simple molecule to first life:** The WG is very large so it would be necessary to split it at some point. At the meeting in Heidelberg the WG organised there have been several core themes mentioned.

**Early life and life in extreme conditions:** A music show is planned for the Azores workshop, more along the lines of classical music. Also an exhibition on life in lava caves is planned during the conference on life in the sub-surface, which will be the main event.

**Biosignatures and the detection of life beyond us:** Due to the retirement of Michel Viso we have to find a deputy leader of the WG.

**Historical Philosophical and Societal questions in Astrobiology**: “Space Humanities”, a Serie of hybrid seminars, was organised in Lund and online. A conference on Commercial Space exploratioin is held in Kiruna in autumn.

**Field Work and field side**: EAI should be active in the protection of field sites. It is planned to have the Azores as official field site.

**Funding and Policy:** In March 23, the largest infrastructure programme was submitted to the Commission: SpaceSciRI. Wolf Geppert is invited as the EAI Chair in the ERIM meeting in June to talk about the potential involvement of EAI in future proposals. It was also mentioned that there is funding gap to look into, from ERC and Marie Curie Research Training Networks , especially for Astrobiology.

L Noack added that not only the big grants are of importance: the smaller grants from the partner universities could be very interesting for EAI.

A Kereszturi suggested that EAI could send the potential calls for funding to the EA community. This could be done via a Newsletter or a publication on the website. It as mentioned that Europlanet has already suc a circulation.

The project on the book “Mars and he Earthlings” (preliminary title) started in Höör in June 2022. 15 people are involved on this project so far. Onre coordination meeting is planned in autumn.

**Protoplanetary disks and their physical and chemical processes:** A deputy coordinator needs to be found for the project team.

**Science fiction as a tool for outreach and education**: No specific comment

**Impacts and their role in the evaluation of life**: No specific comment

**Tracing Life and identifying habitable environments** : This is a very active new project team. There were an in person meeting in 2022 (where?) and papers were submitted (more details?).

**Astrobiology and Art and preparing an exhibition**: The WG is open for collaboration. EAI would like to create a network of artists and scientists.

The Opening concert of BEACON was a great success and a good overlap of music, science and poetry.

**Outreach:** An exhibition is planned on the Fuencaliente visitor centre when it will be constructed, but that will depend on the elections.

Advertisement on the WG activities

It was mentioned that there were few advertisement on the project team activities and objectives, and that this should be improved.

* Action: Project team and WG will be invited to complete their pages on the EAI website, stating clear objectives.

People interested to be trained on the website are invited to contact Courtney Allison form the ESF [callison@esf.org](mailto:callison@esf.org)

The difference of a Working Group and a Project team is the size. Also, a Project team is on a very focus topic and mission.

More clarity is required on the website about the difference between the two.

* Action: Put the definition of Working Group and Project Team on the website.

It was mentioned that a workshop should be organised to discuss what kind of future project teams should come up. In addition, EAI should advise its mailing list any time a project team is created, inviting interesting people to join.

EAI Website Contact Form

The EAI receive several emails every month of people wanted to join Working Groups.

Those emails are sent to the WG leaders and deputy but it appears that most of them are early careers looking for a PhD position.

* Action: ESF to confirm first with the people interested to join any WG that they are not contacting us to find a position but indeed participate to the WG activities

Seminars are well attended, and seen by even more people online after it is uploaded to Youtube.

## Meetings

2022 events

A very successful Summer school, “Life on Earth and Beyond”, was organised on May 30 - June 1st 2022 on the Ven Island, Sweden, with 24 participants.

This event was followed, by the “Astrobiology & Society” Conference, held at Höör on June 3-4 2022, with 18 participants.

The EAI Academy 2022 was very successful, with 450+ participants. In 2023, the Academy is also attracting a lot of participants.

Red22 was organised by the University of Bordeaux (Muriel Gargaud) in March 2022: this event was supported by EAI. Thanks to EAI funding, students from all over Europe didn’t have to pay for the registration.   
Attendees also mentioned that Red22 helped them to understand BEACON content.

“Volcano summer schools” – co organised with DLR. Papers are also coming out from this initiative. (More details?)

2023 Planned events:

Summer School “Moons of the solar system” – 26-30 June 2023; Marseille, France: this will be a recurring initiative and EAI support might be requested for next events.

Workshop “Microsatellites and their use in planetary and astrobiology research”: 1-12 August 2023; Tartu, Estonia

Summer School “Impacts and their Role in the Evolution of Life”: 5-14 September 2023; Nördlingen, Germany

Conference “Commercial Space Exploration and Travel – Chances and risks”: 25-27 September 2023; Kiruna, Sweden

Workshop “Life in the sub-surface” and Summer School “Volcanism, Plate tectonics, hydrothermal vents and life” October 2023; Azores, Portugal

Early Career Scientist Workshop – should also be coming soon.

2024 Planned events

Summer School “Formation of planetary systems and detection of habitable planets and moons” – Prague – July 2024

BEACON 2025:

The General Assembly and BEACON in 2025 will be organised in Iceland.

An effort will be done so that the meeting can be as Carbon Neutral as possible.   
  
Several participants mentioned that the price might be too high to allow students to come, mainly the accommodation. The EAI Chair confirmed that he will do his best to negotiate good prices with the hotels on the island.

## Suggestions:

* A participant suggested that EAI could use a bit of the institute money for funding (covering travel expenses, etc) for PhD so that they can work in another lab for a few weeks/month.
* It was suggested to join EAI and EANA activities to avoid multiplicate astrobiology meetings.

Lena Noack mentioned EANA and EAI have a different scope and not the exact same targeting group. EANA is a network platform.

A Memorandum of Understanding is currently on process between EAI and EANA and will be delivered to the executive board.

It is also agreed that there is a will to make sure that both EANA and EAI events are not on the same year, in order to allow the community to participate to both events.

It was also mentioned that EAI is not only BEACON, and is involved in other activities.

# Presentation of Administrative report (Mariette Vandermersch-Desmartin, ESF)

# Presentation of Budget for 2024 (Wolf Geppert, EAI Chair), followed by discussion

* Action: ESF to send the financial result of BEACON (including ESF Staff Cost) to the Management Committee in September

# Vote on Motion 1 (Activity Report)

Approved by the full General Assembly

# Vote on Motion 2 (Action Plan)

Approved by the full General Assembly

# Vote on Motion 3 (Budget)

It was suggested to cut some fundings from the General Assembly to give it to other initiatives:

* Muriel is requesting some support for their event in Strasbourg.

Approved by 26 participants and 1 abstention.

The abstention is due for the lack of fund for research.

* Action: Review of the budget in September after the final financial results of BEACON are available.

Other suggestions for the budget use:

* 10th anniversary of AbGraDe : bursaries for students to attend
* Support of an exchange programme for students
* Action: Get back to AbGraDe with a potential budget for their 10th anniversary

# Substitution election for the Deputy Leader of the Working Group "Evolution and Traces of Early Life and Life under Extreme Conditions"

Karen Olson Francis resigned for her position as a deputy of Emmanuelle’s working groups and Purificación López-Garcìa applied to replace her.

The EAI thanked Karen for her involvement in the institute.

Purificación application fully Approved by the General Assembly

# Any other business

Ruth-Sophie Taubner introduced the AbGraDEPEC activities since its creation in 2013.

# Summary of Actions

* Action: Find a New Deputy for the “Biosignatures and the detection of life beyond us” WG.
* Action: Project team and WG will be invited to complete their pages on the EAI website
* Action: Put the definition of Working Group and Project Team on the website, stating clear objectives
* Action: Website contact form: ESF to confirm first with the people interested to join any WG that they are not contacting us to find a position but indeed participate to the WG activities
* Action: ESF to send the financial result of BEACON (including ESF Staff Cost) to the Management Committee in September
* Review of the budget in September after the final financial results of BEACON are available.
* Get back to AbGraDe with a potential budget for their 10th anniversary