

EFFS News

Number 19 July 2011

CIRCULATION

To representatives and correspondents of federated societies:

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To correspondents of societies eligible but not yet formally federated:

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European Federation for Freshwater Sciences

Notes of the Meeting of Representatives

held in the room 3 of the Auditorium and Conference Centre in Girona, on Tuesday 28 June, 2011, on the occasion of the SEFS 7 meeting

<u>Present:</u> Luigi Naselli-Flores (Chair and representing Associazione Italiana di Oceanologia e Limnologia), Mike Dobson (representing the Freshwater Biological Association), Maria Leitão (representing Association Française de Limnologie), Antonio Camacho (representing Asociación Ibérica de Limnología), Elisabeth Meyer (representing Deutsche Gesellschaft für Limnologie), Geta Rișnoveanu, (representing Societatea Română de Ecologia), Maria Leichtfried (representing Verein Österreichischer Limnologen), Jaroslav Vrba (representing Česká Limnologická Společnost), Marek Svitok (representing Slovenská Limnologická Spoločnost). Additionally, by invitation of the Chair, Núria Bonada (representing Jóvenes AIL), Meriç Albay and Reyhan Akcaalan (as observers for the Limnological Society of Turkey), and Sandrine Angélibert (on behalf of the Swiss Limnological Society).

<u>Apologies for inability to be present</u>: Iwona Jasser, Ryszard Kornijow (Polskie Towarzystwo Hydrobiologiczne); Giuseppe Morabito (Associazione Italiana di Oceanologia e Limnologia), Meryem Beklioglu (Limnological Society of Turkey).

Welcome. Luigi Naselli-Flores opens the meeting at 18.30 with a welcome and an acknowledgement of the attendance by delegates. Moreover, he introduces himself as the new elected chairman of the EFFS. He underlines that it is not an easy task to follow Prof. Dr. Colin Reynolds in chairing this prestigious board and ask for the help and the collaboration of all the representatives to keep on taking care of the EFFS. A deep thank goes to Colin Reynolds for fulfilling the important and hard work, which has led to the actual structure of the EFFS. He read the apologies, noting that, unfortunately, neither Polskie Towarzystwo Hydrobiologiczne nor the Magyar Hidrológiai Társaság was represented in person.

Item 1 - *EFFS progress in the period* 2009 – 2011. The representatives and observers are welcomed and introduced from the Chair. In particular, reference is made to correspondence with the Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Hydrologie und Limnologie, SGHL, which notify us of its intention to join the EFFS. The participation of Dr. Sandrine Angélibert as observer at this meeting of representatives may be seen as a first contact to welcome another national association into the European federation for Freshwater Sciences.

A brief review of progress since the Sinaia meeting in 2009 shows that the EFFS collects now three new federated associations: Česká Limnologická Společnost, Slovenská Limnologická Spoločnost and Turkish Limnological Society. A brief discussion of the need to further enlarge the number of associated members, by contacting the Finnish and

Swedish limnological associations is made and the chairman is charged to explore the possibility to encourage these two societies to join the EFFS.

Item 2 - Future SEFS meetings. Venues and the "organisational dilemma". One of the most prominent task of the EFFS is to promote a European Forum for Freshwater Sciences by convening the Symposia for European Freshwater Sciences, which in Girona successfully realized its 7th meeting. The next meeting scheduled to happen in 2013 had received an invitation from the German Limnological Society in the person of the German representative Prof. Elisabeth Meyer. However, in 2013 the Congress of the International Society of Limnology (SIL) is scheduled to be held in Budapest. Several representatives, including Maria Leitão (AFL), Jaroslav Vrba (CLS) and Elisabeth Meyer (GLS), show some concerns about the possibility to have a SEFS in the same year of a SIL Congress in Europe. In addition, Maria Leitão inform us that AFL circulated a questionnaire among his members, which collected a negative opinion in having two big congresses in Europe in the same year. The main reason for this negative opinion is due to the shortage of funds to attend conferences which is affecting the majority of European researchers. Thus two proposals are evaluated and discussed by the representatives: i) to postpone the meeting by one year when SIL and SEFS coincide; ii) to change the frequency of SEFS and thus having triennial meetings instead of biannual ones.

The chairman underlines that SEFS should be mainly addressed to ensure a forum to European scientists and especially to young researchers (mainly PhD students and postdocs). SEFS can offer a good service to these young researchers by providing courses and/or meetings parallel to the symposia which can be fruitful for the students, as e.g. the short course on writing scientific papers and the editors/students get together organized at this SEFS in Girona by the section "Youngs" of the Asociación Ibérica de Limnología (Jóvenes AIL). Moreover, by considering young researchers as an important target of SEFS, we offer to our students the possibility to enhance collaborations, to sustain and promote scientific exchange among young and less young scientists, to favor the mobility of young researchers across the continent and to provide a stage where to display their research. SEFS can thus represent a place where European students can be "farmed and formed" and where their scientific career may find skills, guides, opportunities and collaborations. Changing the frequency of the meeting on a three years basis would allow a student attending a PhD course in Europe (on the average a three years period) to attend the SEFS at maximum once (too early or maybe too late) thus loosening many of the chances SEFS can offer. Moreover, postponing the meeting by one year when it cooccurs with SIL would pose SEFS in a subaltern role. The success of this meeting in Girona, which has seen 550 delegates attending the symposium, is in contrast with this subaltern role. Conversely, the policy of keeping low and competitive the costs and high the quality of the meetings may represent a convenient alternative for young researchers. A general agreement on these positions is reached by the representatives along with the decision to have SEFS two months before SIL. Elisabeth Meyer renews her invitation to have the 8th SEFS in Münster, considering the possibility to have it at the end of May 2013.

Item 3 - EFFS visibility and web site. In order to make more effective the services that both EFFS and SEFS may provide to federated associations and their members, visibility

and accessibility is of paramount importance. A web site http://effsonline.org has been powered by Freshwater Life, kindly hosted by FBA and managed by Louise Miles (FBA) in the past for FREE. However, only a very limited number of people have accessed the site and used its facilities in these years, probably because the site has not a very attractive design and/or is not well advertised on the Internet. The main problem in having a functioning and attractive web site is that this activity is money-consuming. EFFS does not have any financial income since it was decided that the federated associations are not charged by any fee. The chairman suggests to explore the possibility to ask Publishers (e.g. Springer, Wiley-Blackwell, Elsevier, Taylor & Francis), to fund the creation of a new EFFS web site. In exchange, EFFS could offer to these companies the possibility to place their adverts in the website. The representatives authorize the chairman to ask these companies to support this initiative.

Item 4 - EFFS and young scientists. Perspectives on an European platform of freshwater young researchers. The chairman invites Núria Bonada to show the initiatives promoted by the section "Jóvenes" of the AIL at this SEFS. Núria presents what the recently created section "Jóvenes AIL" is doing for its Spanish and Portuguese members, including meetings among students, courses, sharing and circulation of information, etc., and propose the enlargement of such initiatives through the creation of a European platform dedicated to young researchers. Meanwhile, at this 7th SEFS, "Jóvenes AIL" organized a short pre-meeting course given by Andrew Boulton, editor of Marine & Freshwater Research, on how to write scientific papers. In addition, about 100 students have enthusiastically attended a get-together with the editors of 10 among the most popular (i.e. impacted) scientific journals. The students were distributed in groups of ten and had the chance to make questions to and receive advices from the editors on the procedures related to paper submission, minimal quality requisites, and editorial procedures. In addition, a meeting among students is planned on next Thursday, where the proposal to create a section of the EFFS dedicated to students will be launched. The outcomes of this meeting will be circulated among the representatives. All the representatives congratulate Núria for this initiative and hope for further developments.

Item 5 - Other Business. The chairman invites Sandrine Angélibert to refer about the wish of SGHL to join the EFFS. Sandrine, on behalf of the Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Hydrologie und Limnologie not only confirms the willingness of the Swiss society to join the Federation but also the possibility to have one of the future SEFS in Switzerland. All the representatives are delighted for this good news and ask Sandrine for an official request, to be sent by letter or e-mail to the chairman, from the Swiss Society in order to render official the affiliation of the SGHL to EFFS.

Since no other items are present in the agenda, Luigi Naselli-Flores asks Mike Dobson to bring, on behalf of all the representatives, our thanks and greetings to Colin Reynolds who has trusted in and excellently chaired and took care of EFFS in the past six years. He seeks approval of those present that these notes accurately reflect the actions and intents of the meeting of representatives. Subject to this agreement, the paper EFFS News 19 be circulated among all the nominated representatives with the request that they seek reaction and comment of their respective governing council/committees. All

correspondence shall be electronic and, initially, confined to representatives. These minutes have been seen and approved by all who were present. The meeting is concluded at 20.00.

European Fresh and Young Researchers.

Girona meeting minutes. June 30th 2011

A first meeting of the European Fresh and Young researchers (EFYR) was hold in Girona during the Symposium of European Freshwater Sciences (SEFS7). This meeting was an initiative of the youth section of the Iberian Limnological Society (Jóvenes-AIL) in order to explain the youth section to other European researchers and to foster a join platform at the European level gathering members from all nationalities. A presentation (attached) was projected to explain the initiative to the audience, followed by an open discussion on the possible initiatives and steps to promote a common platform. The main objectives of the platform would be (1) to promote activities addressed to young researchers during SEFS meetings and (2) to create a European network of contacts that supports communication and collaboration among young researchers.

The following points were agreed:

- 1. In order to gather as many young researchers as possible, it was decided to distribute an invitation among all Limnological Societies in Europe. Regarding this aspect, it was decided to send this invitation through the national societies, which would in turn receive the invitation from the chair of the EFFS (Luigi Naselli-Flores). Therefore, an invitation to join the platform has to be launched soon!
- 2. In order to facilitate the contact of all interested young scientists in Europe with the platform, it was decided to designate national contact points. The names and contact information of these contact points will be included in the invitation letter described in the point 1. The following, is the initial list of national contact points:

Country	Contact Point	Institution	e-mail
Germany	Stefanie Krüger	UFZ-Magdeburg	stefanie.krueger@ufz.de
Spain/Portugal	Ainhoa Gaudes	Univ. Barcelona	agaudes@ub.edu
	Mireia Bartrons	Univ. Wisconsin	mireiabartrons@hotmail.com
Czech Rep.	Martin Rulik		martin.rulik@upol.cz
France	Nabil Majdi		n.majdi@hotmail.fr
Italy	Federico Marrone	Univ. Palermo	federico.marrone@unipa.it
UK	Doris Pichler	Queen Mary Univ.	d.e.pichler@qmul.ac.uk
Finland	Anna Astorga	·	anna.astorga@oulu.fi
Switzerland	Simone	Eawag	simone.baumgartner@eawag.ch
	Baumgartner		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

In regards to the contact points, Germany, France, Italy and Spain are part of the EFFS and the delivery of the invitation to members should not be an issue. In contrast, neither Switzerland nor the Scandinavian countries are part of the EFFS and it can be not so easy to deliver the invitations to the members of their national limnological societies. The Swiss scientist attending the meeting suggested contacting Michael Doering (michael.doering@eawag.ch), as board member of the SGHL.

3. In terms of visibility, it was decided to create a *facebook* group of the EFYR. Ainhoa Gaudes (University of Barcelona) agreed to take the challenge and create one. Furthermore, it was decided to create a distribution list at Googlegroups. Biel Obrador (University of Barcelona) agreed to create one.

CURRENT REPRESENTATIVES

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Limnology	Luigi Naselli-Flores	luigi.naselli@unipa.it
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HHS Hungarian Hydrological	Peter Bíro	biro@tres.blki.hu
Society	Katalin Zsuga	zsuga.katalin@vituki.hu Katalin has not responded to emails for some time. Does anyone have current information?
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