

ECCOMAS Young Investigators Committee Meeting

Aachen, July 22nd, 2015

Minutes

Participants: Alessandro Reali (Italy), Juha Jeronen (Finland), Alexander Popp (Germany), Stefanie Elgeti (Germany), Frans van der Meer (The Netherlands), A. Gil Andrade-Campos (Portugal), Joan Baiges (Spain), Ludovic Chamoin (France), Fredric Larson (Sweden) and Jaan Simon (Germany)

Alessandro Reali (AR), the chairman of the ECCOMAS Young Investigators Committee (EYIC), started the meeting sharing news concerning the last ECCOMAS Executive Committee (EC) and Managing Board (MB) meetings, in which he participated in Venice last May.

AR explained that the EYIC is responsible for 4 pages of the ECCOMAS newsletter, including the Young Investigators corner, and asked for contributions for these pages. It was mentioned that from next year only one edition of the newsletter will be published (and printed) per year and that, generally, the EYIC has 2 months to prepare its own contribution.

Stefanie Elgeti (SE) presented the rules for the PhD Olympiads that were established this year. These are in Appendix B of these minutes. Ludovic Chamoin (LC) suggested to put these rules in the ECCOMAS website, for these to be easily accessible to future PhD Olympiads participants.

AR also gave the information that the deadline for the best PhD prize will be in early 2016.

Taking into account the experience with the process of getting the names of the EYIC, AR added that the coordination between the local associations can be very difficult. It thus seems important that members of the EYIC make the link with local associations, sharing information and reporting decisions made.

Jaan Simon (JS) presented the Young Investigators Mini-symposium (YIMS) arranged in the next ECCOMAS conference, which will be taking place in Greece. He explained how this YIMS was organized and how this MS is different from the other MS. The proposal of the YIMS can be found in Appendix C. JS added that the MS is not limited to young investigators (YI), however, it is made for YI.

AR said that it would be nice if every EYIC member spreads this YIMS. Andrade-Campos (AC) proposed to advertise this MS already in this YIC conference, idea accepted by SE and JS. LC commented that it is difficult to prepare a very good MS session with pair of speakers (feedback of previous YIC) so that participants in the YIMS should prepare their talk well in advance. JS answered that this YIMS, organized by young people, should be attractive to all participants. Alexander Popp (AP) commented that the ideas of this MS are great, however, one or two senior researchers should be invited to be the basis of the MS. It was suggested that the participants of the YIMS could also be participants of other MS. It was settled that JS writes to Professor M. Papadrakakis, chairman of the conference, asking if this could be taken in account.

AR informed that the next YIC will be in Italy (Milan). Four proposals were considered and Milan was the most voted one, followed by Barcelona.

AR commented that the president (Prof. Ramm) and secretary (Prof. Eberhardsteiner) of ECCOMAS have young researchers as a priority. He informed that the total amount spent for young people (including travel expenses, prizes, etc.) is of in the order of 55/60% of the total budget of ECCOMAS, commenting that this value is impressive and should be recognized. Therefore, AR suggested that the EYIC should thank this ECCOMAS leadership and should work hard in order to deserve this effort.

AR added that awards for YI should be encouraged and that the local associations and ECCOMAS conferences should promote these prizes. EYIC should also promote these awards. AR gave the example of the best PhD award of the local associations, as the one recently created in Italy, and emphasized that no money is needed for these prizes. He suggested that the same should be done in all ECCOMAS countries, therefore, and this should be proposed by the EYIC. The same should be made for the Young researcher award, an award for researchers below 40 years old (however, the limit of age can change for each country). LC shared the opinion that the age limit should be approximately the same in all ECCOMAS countries to have clear and relevant rules. This was agreed by all members of the EYIC.

Joan Baiges (JB) said that he met two weeks ago with the Spanish EYIC recently formed and that they had the idea of doing a YI symposium in the next Iberian conference. It was emphasized that this local meeting could be very important to gather YIs.

Another point introduced by AR is the need for a communication channel with all YI as, for example, a mailing list. This channel is very important to advertise opening job positions, YIMS, conferences, prizes, etc.

AP proposed to have a job positions section inside the YI part of the ECCOMAS website. He volunteered to accomplish this goal.

AR explained that the EYIC is expected to express a member in the jury of the ECCOMAS awards, including YI awards (Zienkiewicz and Lions awards). However, this person should not be a candidate for one of the awards. Therefore, considering that AR has already won the Zienkiewicz award, he was suggested by the EYIC members to be the EYIC representative in the jury.

The ECCOMAS EC asked EYIC to suggest few names of YI to be the next EYIC chairman, starting his/her activities from September 2016. It looks reasonable to look for candidates under 35. The new chairman will be chosen by the ECCOMAS EC/MB no later than its upcoming meeting in Crete next June, and will have the task to create the EYIC executive core group. The names of SE, LC and JS were suggested by the EYIC, where JS mentions that he already is 36 years old.

AR explained to all EYIC members the amount of work the EYIC coordinator generally has.

JS suggested to have a young section in all local associations and AP suggested that all local associations should have an EYIC member in their MB. JB has shared his experience in Spain, where the young members tried to highlight the importance of YI in SEMNI. Therefore, it was suggested that each member of the EYIC should try to discuss with his local association the participation of YI in the local associations. It was mentioned that these minutes can be sent to the president of each local association in order to share what this committee is doing. It is also planned to put them on the ECCOMAS website.

AR mentioned that even though EYIC is starting, however, it has been recognized by the ECCOMAS EC and MB as a dynamic committee, but we have to work even harder in the future.

The following suggestions were given by the EYIC for the next ECCOMAS conferences: (i) Poster sessions for YI; (ii) awards for YI; (iii) Child care during the conference, after checking possible insurance issues.

AR stated that the next meeting of the EYIC is scheduled for the ECCOMAS ECCM conference in Crete, Greece, in 2016. It was reminded that the EYIC meetings are already defined: in odd years, the meeting will

take place during the YIC and, in even years, the meeting will take place in the ECCM/ECCOMAS conferences. The next ECCM conference will take place in Glasgow in 2018.

AR closed the meeting congratulating SE and JS for the organization of the YIC2015 conference.

Appendix A – Some remarks on the YIC 2015 from the chair persons' point of view

Experiences from YIC2015:

- Very good support by ECCOMAS secretariat concerning the advertisement (templates for flyers, distribution through ECCOMAS channels, etc.)
- Very clear structure of the financing through ECCOMAS
- Most difficulties were due to the administration of our local university. Here, we will be happy to share the details with future organizers.

The best parts (from our point of view):

- A strong interaction between the participants due to the common lunch room that was also used extensively outside of lunch to sit and discuss.
- The science slam that gave some very nice examples on how to not bore the audience to death.

Room for improvement:

- The one major thing that did not work well for us was the PhD Olympiad. A large number of presidents of local organizations did not reply to our request for a candidate (surely also due to the limited amount of time we had). Here, we would suggest that the names of the participants are handed over to the organizers centrally through ECCOMAS.

Appendix B – Rules of the PhD Olympiad

Selection:

Since the nominations should be done by the ECCOMAS member association on the basis of the selection for the ECCOMAS PhD Awards, it could be taken as a rule that all the candidates for the ECCOMAS PhD Awards are automatically invited to the PhD Olympiads, with the exception of the two ECCOMAS PhD Awardees, which could be replaced by the respective associations. In case someone declines to take part to the Olympiads, the respective association may provide a substitute.

Evaluation:

1. The ECCOMAS Olympiads consist of scientific presentations of research results included in outstanding PhD dissertations, carried out within ECCOMAS member associations. However, it is important to highlight that only the overall quality of the presentation is evaluated (according to the indications outlined in point 4. below), since the contents of the PhD theses are already considered for the related ECCOMAS PhD awards.
2. The organization of the Olympiads sessions and the duration of the presentations (minimum 20 minutes) are decided by the local organizers.
3. The evaluation committee for the Olympiads consists of three referees: Typically, one is indicated by the local organizers, one by the ECCOMAS Executive Committee, and one by the core group of the ECCOMAS Young Investigator Committee. It should be tried that they represent the main scientific subjects of ECCOMAS.

4. In assessing the quality of the presentations, the evaluation committee should explicitly take into account the following attributes:
 - Quality of the talk;
 - Clarity of the slides;
 - Communication to the audience;
 - Scientific interest;
 - Reference and credit to works of others.
5. The evaluation committee selects the two best overall presentations following the only criterion of excellence, according to the indications above. If appropriate, they might represent different scientific areas of ECCOMAS.

Appendix C – EYMS of the ECCOMAS conference proposal

"MS 614 - Young Investigators Minisymposium"

Organizers:

- Jaan-Willem Simon (RWTH Aachen University, Germany), jaan.simon@rwth-aachen.de
- Alexander Popp (TU München, Germany), popp@lnm.mw.tum.de
- Mahmood Jabareen (Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel), cvjmah@tx.technion.ac.il
- Joan Baiges (CIMNE, UPC Barcelona, Spain), jbaiges@cimne.upc.edu

This minisymposium is organized by young investigators (all of which are members of the ECCOMAS Young Investigators Committee) for young investigators. The format of this minisymposium is different from the regular ones to particularly attract young researchers.

There are two possibilities for presentations:

1. Presentation in pairs:

Two presenters prepare and submit their abstract together. They should know each other but should not work at the same institution. The idea is to view a topic from two different perspectives, thus leading to intense discussions on pros and cons of the presented approaches.

2. Presentation of things that did not work (as expected):

This session is dedicated to those works which did not work or lead to different outcomes than expected. This gives the chance to present “negative” results. Authors should discuss why things went “wrong” with the aim to prevent others from falling into the same traps.