

ECCOMAS Young Investigators Committee (EYIC) Meeting Glasgow, June 14th, 2018

MINUTES

Participants (12):

Joan Baiges (Spain), Will Coombs (UK), Alexej Duben (Russia), Stefanie Elgeti (Germany), Thomas Heuze (France), Lukasz Madej (Poland), Simone Morganti (Italy), Alexander Popp (Germany), Carmen Rodrigo (Spain), Jaan Simon (Germany), Frans van der Meer (The Netherlands), Francois Vilar (France)

A) REPORT ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES 2017/18

The largest part of the meeting was devoted to a report on recent ECCOMAS activities, and in particular young investigator related activities, by the two co-chairpersons Stefanie Elgeti and Alexander Popp. Among the discussed topics were the following:

(1) ECCOMAS Managing Board Meeting 2018

A meeting of the ECCOMAS MB took place on Sunday, June 10 (the day before the ECCM-ECFD conference) in Glasgow. Among the most important issues discussed was the renaming of the ECCM-ECFD conference series to “ECCOMAS Congress”. In the future, there will thus be an ECCOMAS Congress taking place every two years and the rather complex construction of the ECCM-ECFD conferences will vanish. Also, preparations for the combined IACM / ECCOMAS Congress 2020 in Paris are going well. Our committee will be allowed to nominate one semi-plenary lecturer, and a systematic procedure for this nomination will be set up in due time (e.g. nomination with a short 1-page explanation, shortlist of candidates, online-based voting for the remaining candidates). All participants agree that the nominee will not be chosen from among our group, but from the very diverse ECCOMAS young investigators community.

All in all, the feedback of the MB on the EYIC activities has been absolutely fantastic. EYIC is widely considered as the most active and innovative Technical Committee within ECCOMAS, and further activities are strongly supported by the ECCOMAS administration.

(2) ECCOMAS PhD Olympiad 2018

The PhD Olympiad 2018 has been organized in conjunction with the ECCM-ECFD conference in Glasgow, and the EYIC has supported both the preparation phase and the actual organization (Will Coombs and Simone Morganti served on the evaluation panel). Generally speaking, the organization has seen great improvements over recent years. However, there is still room for improvements. Lessons learnt from the current edition are:

- timing of the session was not optimal (shortly before Science Slam)
- the room was a bit too small
- the session should be advertised more (e.g. website / program / opening)
- the administration should be improved (e.g. diploma during closing ceremony, maybe a small souvenir / surprise connected to the host city of the Olympiad)
- for 2019 (September, YIC in Krakow), the organizers will be contacted soon

(3) Young Investigators Minisymposium 2018

The second edition of the so-called “Young Investigators Minisymposium” (organized by Joan Baiges, Ludovic Chamoin, Stefanie Elgeti, Alexander Popp, Jaan-Willem Simon, Frans van der

Meer), where new scientific formats such as presentation in pairs are experimented with, has taken place in Glasgow on Wednesday, June 13. Attendance was very good, and the presentations were very well-received by the audience. The format will definitely be repeated at the combined IACM / ECCOMAS Congress 2020 in Paris.

(4) Young Investigators Science Slam 2018

A Science Slam (organized by Stefanie Elgeti, Alexander Popp, Jaan-Willem Simon) has taken place at ECCM-ECFD 2018 in analogy to the very successful edition at YIC 2015. The conference organizers provided a fantastic location (Oran Mor – a former church that has been turned into an event location) and tickets sold out quickly (they could be booked online and were limited to around 200 tickets due to seating capacity). In total, 10 speakers ranging from full professor to PhD student volunteered, and the evening can only be considered a great success. ECCOMAS is already urging our committee to repeat the event in 2020.

(5) Other Activities and Conference Feedback

Thomas Heuze reports on the recent CSMA Young Investigators Conference in France. Innovative session formats such as consulting on ERC Grant proposal writing, scientific paper writing in general, software tutorials, etc. were carried out very successfully. The series of young investigator workshops and conferences of CSMA in France can be considered a role model for other national and/or regional associations in Europe.

Concerning the ECCM-ECFD conference in Glasgow, several participants asked why there were no semi-plenary lectures given by the ECCOMAS Best PhD Awardees and the ECCOMAS Young Investigator (Zienkiewicz and Lions) Awardees. This had been the case at the ECCOMAS Congress in Crete in 2016, but it seems to have been forgotten this time. EYIC will remind ECCOMAS of this tradition for the next edition in 2020.

B) REPORT ON RESULTS FROM AACHEN MEETING 2018

The four working groups that had been formed during the EYIC workshop in Aachen (Germany) on March 8-9, 2018, presented the main results of their investigations.

Group 1: New website, job database and LinkedIn profile (Alex, Alexej)

Unfortunately, due to a hacker attack on the draft version of the new ECCOMAC website, there have been some delays. However, the new website including the job database are now planned to go online in September 2018. The idea of a LinkedIn profile has been approved by the MB, and EYIC has been assigned the task of setting up the profile in collaboration with the ECCOMAS Secretariat in Barcelona.

Group 2: EYIC activities at the big conference in Paris 2020 (Simone, Carmen, Ludo)

Several ideas have been generated by the working group during the Aachen meeting, and a few of those must now be selected. The participants agree that EYIC should not do too many different things, since the already existing activities (Science Slam, YI Minisymposium, etc.) already need quite some preparation efforts. One or two innovative new activities would be perfect. An e-mail or web-based opinion poll will be organized in fall 2018 to identify the favorite activities that should be worked out in more detail.

Group 3: EYIC conference best-practice guidelines (Steffi, Max, Konrad, Piotr)

Experiences from previous Young Investigators Conferences have been collected into a little handbook of guidelines that should help future YIC organizers. The handbook is almost

finished and will be distributed in fall 2018. One open question is whether the handbook shall also be made available to the candidates during the bidding phase for a new YIC conference.

Group 4: EYIC rules of nomination and membership (Will, Frans)

The mission statement, rules of nomination and membership of EYIC, etc. have been reviewed and sharpened. The document that summarizes this self-conception of our committee will be finished in fall 2018 and will serve as an important basis for future EYIC members. Among the most important questions raised is the continuity and renewal of the committee. In the medium term, a staggered nomination approach is suggested, where half of the committee is renewed every two years (for a term of four years). However, for 2020 a different solution is needed to assure continuity of our activities, because according to current rules, very large parts of our committee (including the entire core group) would drop out in 2020. This topic will be put on the agenda of the next EYIC meeting in 2019.

C) PROPOSAL FOR A NEW OPEN-ACCESS JOURNAL IN MECHANICS

The EYIC chairpersons have been approached by a group of young investigators (mainly from France) led by Vladislav Yastrebov (MINES ParisTech), who would like to explore the possibility of creating a new open-access journal in mechanics based on the concept of a so-called “overlay journal” (<https://www.loomio.org/g/yPoIWnc5/for-an-epi-journal-in-mechanics>). The slides that have been prepared by this group are attached. EYIC has intensely discussed the proposal and gathered some first thoughts / feedback as follows:

- the idea is considered very good for our scientific community
- however, EYIC strongly feels that the idea needs to be supported and pushed primarily by senior researchers and high-rank officials within the associations
- young investigators might sometimes (and understandably) shy away from publishing their original work in a little known (and maybe not yet SCOPUS-listed) open-access journal as compared to the top commercial journals in their respective field
- EYIC is therefore skeptical whether the initiative can be successful as a pure “young investigator” initiative; involvement of senior researchers is encouraged
- it is still rather unclear in which form EYIC could actually support the initiative
- to sum up: while EYIC sees the initiative very favorably, the initiators are strongly encouraged to address the ECCOMAS Executive Committee for official support

While the next regular EYIC meeting will take place during the YIC in Krakow (1-5 September 2019), an additional two-day EYIC meeting in-between is discussed. Stefanie Elgeti and Alexander Popp will try to identify possible dates for such a meeting, which could again take place in Aachen / Germany (just in like in 2016 and 2018).

Attachments

annex01.pdf Proposal for a new open-access journal in mechanics

