

Board meeting report– Roma – october the 21th 2017

Present : H. Ajana (CPUM), F. Ashour (Cairo Univ.), F. Bennis (ECN), A. Benamara (Pdt), O. Boiron (DG), P. Damien (USEK), K. El Sahili (An Najah Univ.), M. Guarascio (GAME), G. Le Palec (Treasurer), K. Najib (ENSMR), G. Quiquerez (ECM), E. Siviero (e-Campus), L. Vincent (HOMERe), A. Zabaniotou (Aristotle Univ.).

Committee for new membership :

F. Bennis, coordinator of the committee has presented the regulations proposed by the new committee. The committee consists of 6 members, 3 men and 3 women, 3 from the north shore of the Mediterranean and 3 from the south shore. Members are elected for a 2-year term during the General Meeting.

The committee is assigned by the RMEI President to the examination of the new applicant candidacies. The committee should reply in a period no later than 2 months to the President. The opinion of the committee is advisory. The RMEI President, knowing the recommendation of the committee, can choose whether or not to invite the applicant to present his candidacy during the RMEI General Meeting.

Some of the relevant points for the evaluation of the candidacy are:

- to hold an engineering degree corresponding to a 5 academic yrs curriculum
- to be accredited by local national authorities
- to have a permanent teaching staff
- to have in his teaching staff PhD holders
- to have at least 400 students

Concerning this last point, the board emphasizes that the possibility for recent institutions to not fulfill this feature might be possible.

The internal regulations of the committee are accepted by the board by a unanimous vote

Pending membership applications

During the Barcelona General Meeting and the formation of the new membership committee, all decisions for the new membership applications have been postponed to the next board meeting. During this board session, the President presented 10 pending membership requests.

After discussion, the board accepted the candidacies by a unanimous vote.

Consequently, the following institutions are invited to present themselves at the General Meeting:

Institution	Country	Contact/Représentative
Faculté Polytechnique de Beni Mellal	Morocco	M. El Gouch

Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Techniques Avancées	ENSTB	Tunisia	Faouzi Chaabane faouzi.chaabane@ensta-b.rnu.tn
Ecole Centrale Polytechnique Privée	ECP	Tunisia	Mohamed Dachraoui meddachraoui@gmail.com
Ecole Nationale d'Ingénieur de Carthage	ENI Carthage	Tunisia	Lilia EL AMRAOUI lilia.elamraoui@enicarthage.rnu.tn
Université El Arbi Ben M'hidi Oum El Bouaghi		Algeria	Farida Houbar Redjem HadeF rhadeF@rocketmail.com
L'Aquila University		Italia	Paola Rizzi paola.rizzi@univaq.it
Technical Univ. of Crete		Crete	Theocharis Tsoutsos theocharis.tsoutsos@enveng.tuc.gr
ESPRIT		Tunisia	??
E-campus		Italia	Enzo Siviero esiviero@esap.it
Alexandria Univ.		Egypt	Prof Essam El Kordi

MED-Accrid

The next edition of the MED-Accrid international congress will be held in Marrakech by our colleagues of the Université Privée de Marrakech (UPM) and Agence Internationale de l'Aviation Civile from Casablanca. Pr Hamid AJANA, representative of the UPM & AIAC at the meeting, explained that the campus is located 13kms from Marrakech city center. The organizers will arrange a daily bus transportation between the city and the campus.

The date of the **MED-Accrid congress will be held on the 26th and 27th of April 2018**. It will precede the RMEI General Assembly that will take place at UPM the 28th of April.

Pr Ahmed BEN CHEIKH LARBI, organizer of the 1st MED-ACCRID at Hammamet (TN) last May, assured Pr AJANA of his support. The Website, flyer and documents used at Hammamet will be quickly transmitted for a new use, to save time, energy and money....

The board agreed on the date (April 26th-27th, 2018) by a unanimous vote.

TARGET Horizon 2020

TARGET means TAKE a Reflexive approach to Gender Equality for institutional Transformation. TARGET will contribute to the advancement of gender equality in research and innovation (R&I) by supporting a reflexive gender equality policy in seven Gender Equality Innovating Institutions (GEIIs) in the Mediterranean basin - including research performing organizations (RPOs), research funding organizations (RFOs) and a network of universities.

RMEI is involved in this European research program that will benefit from RMEI university network to enlarge the statistical surveys.

The scientific coordinator of the program for RMEI is Pr Anastasia ZABANIOTOU from Aristotle Univ. of Thessaloniki (GE). The Legal Entity Administrative Representative (LEAR) is Pr Olivier BOIRON from Ecole Centrale Marseille.

The program kickoff was held at Brussels last June and the first Workshop took place in Centrale Marseille on September 25th and 26th. Pr BOIRON and ZABANIOTOU are preparing a survey that will be sent to the RMEI members before the end of the year.

The Gender Equality (GE) is recognized by the board of RMEI as one of the main and challenging objectives of the network for the next coming years. GE is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of UNESCO for the period 2017-2030.

TuneIt

TuneIt is the acronym for the program was introduced to the network by our colleague Pr Enzo SIVIERO, Vice President of the network and rector of e-Campus university of Novedrate (IT). TuneIt main objective consists of the building of a bridge between Tunisia and Sicilia and finally Italy via the strait of Messina.

A 'competition of ideas' was launched this month at Tunis for the design of four artificial islands that are supposed to support the bridge. The aim behind the launching was that this project offers fantastic opportunities for students' projects or master thesis subjects.

The competition is sponsored by EAMC (Engineering Associations of Mediterranean Countries), PAM (Parliament Assembly of Mediterranean), the Schiller Institute, the Italian Economic Development Ministry, the Craxi Foundation, Università La Sapienza di Roma, Ensit, Federarchitetti, Sistemi Urbani of the group Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane. (ANSAméd).

Our colleague Pr Ahmed BEN CHEIK LARBI, director of Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Ingénieurs de Tunis is the co-organizer of the competition from the Tunisian side.

« Bridging cultures and sharing hearts », the favorite motto of our colleague Enzo, is really well appropriate!!!

GAME

GAME is the student network of RMEI. The board of GAME had a meeting at the RMEI Italian office in the Forte Michelangelo of Civitavecchia on October the 20th. This meeting was mainly devoted to the design of the 2018 GAME agenda and budget.

Pr Massimo GUARASCIO, the RMEI coordinator of GAME, presented to the RMEI board the GAME Michelangelo final budgets for 2016 and 2017. These two events were held at Civitavecchia for 2016 and Marrakech for 2017 with budgets of 22 082€ and 21 194€ respectively.

Moving in Morocco the workshop finally didn't increase the budget which is always around 21k€.

The main expenses are for the flight tickets (40-60%) and the student accommodation (20-30%).

Main private contributors are e-Campus, Scire and RFI and RMEI and Sapienza University for the public one.

The financial participation of the private contributors is problematic from a legal point of view as Pr GUARASCIO said. Indeed, RMEI is a French association and some private contributors like the Port Authorities of Civitavecchia can't easily justify the transfer of money to this kind of foreign association. To clarify the situation for the next workshops Pr GUARASCIO proposed to the board the creation of an Italian legal entity named « Michelangelo Workshop GAME » that will receive the Italian financial contributions for the workshop and more generally for the organization of the GAME events (board meeting, GAME day, etc). MM VINCENT and GUARASCIO are nominated by the board to write the statutes and the internal regulation of the new entity. M. VINCENT proposed that the new entity will also manage the funds associated with the scholarships and grants of the HOMERe Italian office.

Our colleague Pr Fatma ASHOUR from Cairo University proposed that the next GAMe day will be held in Egypt (Alexandria, Aswan) in March 2018. She is currently looking for funding to organize this event and will quickly advise the board of the final decision. Board members warned Mrs ASHOUR on the problem of student authorization to stay in Egypt.

General Assembly 2018

The 2018 GA will be held in Marrakech according to the decision of the last GA held in Barcelona. Pr. AJANA, the representative of CUPM, confirmed the agreement of CUPM administration for the organization of this event.

The date of the GA is April 28th, 2018.

UNESCO

Pr O. BOIRON, the UNESCO chair holder for Ecole Centrale de Marseille / RMEI, made a quick summary of the activities of the chair for the 2017 second semester:

- Meeting at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris for a presentation of the chair activities
- Participation in the UNESCO chairs congress held at Genova last July
- Request for the renewal of the chair in September 2017

Pr BOIRON also presented the program for the next year. The main objective is the organization of an international congress on « Innovation in sustainable development » that will be held in Marseille probably during the fall of 2018. The congress will bring together in the organization committee all the chair holders that are involved in the RMEI network. The congress will address the main fields of the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals.

HOMERe

Pr Léo VINCENT, the creator and manager of the HOMERe program, presented the HOMERe activities for 2017. 125 students benefited from the program since 2016, with remarkable gender equality!!

The program received in 2017 the financial help from the French Ministry of Higher Education (30k€) but, up to now, no grants have been obtained for 2018. The growth of the program needs the constitution of HOMERe national offices that will be more effective for, from one hand, the management of the program and, from the other hand, the fundraising.

- Mrs Noha FAHTI, HOMERe in charge of the south Mediterranean side, participated to the 15th FCM annual congress in Athens, September 20th, where she presented the HOMERe program.
- Mrs Wided CARPENTIER will organize on November 17th a Tunisian career forum where Pr BOIRON will represent HOMERe. This event that will involve many partners of the HOMERe consortium, will offer more than 150 jobs to the students.
- MM VINCENT and BOIRON are working together with UfM to find new financial resources for the future.

Pr Olivier BOIRON
General Delegate of RMEI