



Board Paper – Europlanet Society Executive Board Meeting 2nd -3rd December 2021

Title	Southeast Europe Hub Committee Report
Date	1/12/2021
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Reporting Period	1 st May 2021 to 30 th November 2021

1. Committee Membership.

Committee Role	Name	Affiliation	Country
Chair	Prof. Ioannis A. Dagleis	National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)	Greece
Vice Chair	Dr. Anezina Solomonidou	Caltech /JPL	Greece
Vice Chair	Dr. Veneta Guineva	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	Bulgaria
Vice Chair	Prof. Giuli Verbanac	University of Zagreb	Croatia
Vice Chair	Prof. Constantinos Constantinou	University of Cyprus	Cyprus
Vice Chair	Dr. Dan Alin Nedelcu	Romanian Academy	Romania
Vice Chair	Dr. Aleksandra Nina	Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts	Serbia
Policy Officer	Dr. Eleni Chatzichristou	ERC Executive Agency	Belgium
Industry Officer	Dr. Ingmar Sandberg	SPARC	Greece
Early Career Officer	Dr. Christos Katsavrias	NKUA	Greece
Outreach Officer	Konstantina Moutsouroufi, MSc	NKUA	Greece
Diversity Officer	Marina Molla	9th Elementary School, Komotini	Greece
Amateur Astronomy Contact	Manos Kardasis, MSc	Hellenic Amateur Astronomy Association	Greece

2. Summary of Committee activities during the reporting period

- Regular and satisfactory information dissemination regarding Europlanet's Schemes.
- The Committee endorsed the proposal of the Greek Outreach Team SpaceGates to support their MOOC.

A variety of **activities** have been pursued by scientists of the Southeast Europe Hub:

Research

- Manos Kardasis participated in an international team which discovered a new type of cloud in the atmosphere of Mars. The team led by J. Liliensten, presented the preliminary analysis in the 15th Europlanet Science Congress in September 2021 (id. EPSC2021-7).

Conferences-Seminars

- Acceptance for the organization of the special session in COSPAR 2022 Conference (Athens, 16-24 July 2022) entitled "Ocean Worlds". Co-organizers Dr. Anezina Solomonidou (Caltech/JPL) and Dr. Morgan Cable (JPL). Members of the Organizing Committee: Rosaly Lopes (JPL, USA), Olivier Witasse (ESTEC, Netherlands), Michael Malaska (JPL, USA), Cynthia Phillips (JPL, USA), Olga Sykioti (Athens Observatory, Greece), Ioannis Iliopoulos (University of Patras, Greece), Ioannis Dagleis (University of Athens, Greece), Giuseppe Mitri (University of Nantes, France), Gabriel Tobie (University de Nantes, France), Ioannis Baziotis (AUA, Greece).
- Acceptance for the organization of the session in AOGS 2022 Conference (Virtual, 05-10 June 2022) entitled " Geology, Geophysics, and Habitability in Our Solar System". Co-organizers Dr. Anezina Solomonidou (Caltech/JPL), Dr. Rosaly Lopes (JPL), Dr Alvaro Penteadro Crosta (Unicamp).

- Presentation entitled “Imaging Spectroscopy: detection of biosignatures and minerals in our Solar System” “1st Athens Space & Satellite Industry Summit” International Conference (Athens, 7-8 July 2021) held under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Development and Investments, Ministry of Digital Governance and the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission.
- Organization of a session on “Comparative Planetology” at the COSPAR 2022 Conference (Athens, 16-24 July 2022): Co-organizers Dr. Olga Sykioti (IAASARS/NOA) and Dr. Anezina Solomonidou (JPL/NASA). Members of the Organizing Committee: Prof. E. Chatzitheodoridis (NTUA), Dr. A. Papaioannou (IAASARS/NOA), and A. Rontogiannis (IAASARS/NOA).
- Andjelka Kovacevic's talk given at the 14th Europlanet Science Congress 2020 (id. EPSC2020-242) has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Astrobiology Cambridge University Press on November 25, 2021 (this year), under the title "On possible life-dispersal patterns beyond the Earth". The work acknowledges Europlanet support for participating in Congress 2020.

Education

- O. Sykioti: Co-supervisor of two Diploma Theses (Department of Physics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens) (starting November 2021). Theses supervisor Prof. I.A. Dagleis.
 1. “Seasonal study of the Martian Polar Caps using OMEGA/MEx hyperspectral data”
 2. “Detection and study of maar craters on the surface of Mars using HRSC/MEx topographic data”

Industry Activities

The 2nd (virtual) Regional Hub Policy-Industry officers meeting took place on June 29, 2021 with the participation of 14 Europlanet policy and industry officers representing most regional hubs. The SEE Hub was represented by Eleni Chatzichristou - Hub Policy Officer (Greece), Ingmar Sandberg – Hub Industry Officer (Greece). The main issues discussed pertained to the importance of country-specific, regional and EC initiatives of links and collaborations between research/academia and industry, and the policy strategy and activities of Europlanet. A survey initiated by the Industry team of Europlanet to investigate the perception and intentions of the Europlanet scientific community with industry was presented and critically discussed among the participants.

Outreach Activities

Space and planetary sciences have been promoted to the wider audience through public talks, tribunes, festivals, talks at schools and popular scientific articles, both in national and international press. Some examples:

- Anezina Solomonidou, ‘Planetary Geology in the outer solar system: the search for materials and the research of astrobiology’, May 2021, University of Western Macedonia.
- Anezina Solomonidou, ‘Ocean Worlds of the Outer Solar System’, November 2021, Astronomical Society of Western Greece.
- Ioannis A. Dagleis, “The sounds of space”, Public talk, Island of Milos, 17 July 2021
- Ioannis A. Dagleis, “Space sonatas”, Public talk at the Iraia-Pythagoria Festival, Island of Samos, 17 August 2021.
- The SpaceGates Team has been working towards the creation of a MOOC to introduce science communication to Greek Early Career Researchers, customized to the extraordinary COVID-19 pandemic conditions. The purpose of this, free-to-enroll, training is the development of the communication skills of the participants with an emphasis on Astrophysics, Space and Planetary Science. Highly experienced outreach professionals, educators and science communicators will share their experience and expertise with the learners, covering various topics: creative writing, storytelling, science performance, science communication, communicating planetary science through music, teaching Space and Planetary Science using digital tools, STEM Education, and efficiently organizing attractive outreach activities. More details and information will be provided for the next report, that the project will be more advanced.
- Manos Kardasis and Nantia Moutsouroufi have carried out two inclusiveness oriented events (on November 6th and November 27th), which took place in a public primary school in Nikaia, Athens, an area with excluded and marginalized population. 120 students of various ages participated in both events. Their presentation consisted of interactive activity about our Planetary System along with the observation of the Sun through a telescope and a creative game.

3. Anticipated activities by the Committee over the next reporting period (200 words maximum)

- Establishing post pandemic communication and collaboration routine
- Working towards increasing the number of planetary scientists involved with Europlanet Society

4. Any issues arising (particularly due to the Covid-19 outbreak)?

The community is gently recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic inaction, and is slowly adapting to the new border conditions imposed by the pandemic.

5. Input or decisions from the Executive Board requested by the Committee e.g. approvals, budgetary requests or guidance (NB: the Europlanet Executive Board will announce the decisions on the March 2020 round of the Committee Funding Scheme after the Board Meeting on 25th May).

A request for support of the SpaceGates Academy Mooc has been submitted.



**Ioannis A. Daglis,
Committee Chair**

2 December 2021

Date