



EFFS News

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CIRCULATION

To representatives and correspondents of federated societies:

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Colin S. Reynolds [csr@ceh.ac.uk]; **Núria Bonada** [bonada@ub.edu].

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

thank to the efforts of the Organising Committee chaired by Elisabeth Meyer, the 8th Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences (SEFS8) was undoubtedly a great success. A scientifically sound programme, coupled with the usual friendly atmosphere of SEFS, gave us another interesting and stimulating meeting: European Freshwater Research, in spite of the economic crisis affecting the continent, is extremely active and alive and it increasingly offers high quality results.

The programme of the meeting as well as the book of abstracts can be downloaded at <http://www.freshwatersciences.eu/effs/index.asp?page=SEFS&Id=4>

About 500 scientists from 39 countries attended the meeting in Münster. Among these, a great number of young scientists and PhD students presented the results of their work and offered a vision of the very high standards reached in the European Institutes and labs dealing with freshwater sciences.

The high participation from young researchers was certainly favoured by the efforts made by the OC to offer affordable registration fees, especially for students, maintaining high quality services for delegates.

One of the activities of EFFF is to sustain young researchers at the beginning of their career. In this context, the first plenary lecture of the meeting was given by the winner of the first EFFF Award for the best PhD dissertation in freshwater sciences.

A Round Table among EFFF representatives and representatives of the Society for Freshwater Sciences (SFS, formerly NABS) took place during the meeting and the possibilities of cooperation between the two Organizations were discussed.

The next SEFS, in 2015, will be held in Geneva. The meeting will be arranged jointly by Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Hydrologie und Limnologie and Association Française de Limnologie with three active co-organizers: Bernard Montuelle, INRA Thonon, France; Bastiaan Ibelings, University of Geneva CH; and Beat Oertli, Hepia - University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland)

This EFFF News 24 contains a brief sketch of the authors of the three PhD theses selected from the competition promoted by EFFF; the notes from the Meeting of Representatives, the notes from the round table EFFF-SFS; the notes from the EFYR meeting, and, last but not least, the call for the next EFFF Award for the best PhD dissertation in freshwater sciences.

Luigi Naselli-Flores
EFFF Convener

Winner of the EFFS Award for the best PhD Dissertation in Freshwater Sciences

Diego Tonolla

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Water Division, Bern, Switzerland.



Diego Tonolla holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) and in 2011 completed his PhD at the Freie Universität (FU) Berlin earning Summa Cum Laude for his dissertation, resulting in 5 publications in top rated ecology journals such as *Ecosystems*, *Limnology & Oceanography*, and *Remote Sensing of Environment*. Moreover, he did a substantial work for a comprehensive book on European Rivers (*Rivers of Europe*, 2009, Elsevier).

Between 2005 and 2011 he was employed as a scientific research assistant in the Department of Aquatic Ecology at the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology and in the Department of Shallow Lakes and Lowland Rivers of the Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB) in Berlin. In addition, between 2007 and 2012 he participated in several international collaborative research endeavors with scientists from The University of Montana, Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS), USA and the United States Geological Survey helping expand investigation into the link between hydro-acoustics, flow hydraulics and sediment transport in gravel-bed rivers. His research with thermal infrared imagery for the quantification of spatiotemporal thermal heterogeneity at the floodplain scale and his collaborative effort led Diego to be recognized with an award for the best poster presentation by the International Society for River Science at their 2009 annual conference and a 2012 Schwoerbel-Benndorf „Young Talent Prize“ for outstanding publication from the German Limnological Society. Diego currently is employed as a scientific assistant with the Water Division of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) where he is project- leader for a Swiss-program focused on mitigating negative ecological impacts associated with hydropower generation. Furthermore, he is completing a Certificate of Advanced Studies in River Restoration and continues collaborative scientific engagement with researchers from both the IGB and FLBS. He has developed expertise and interdisciplinary research interests in the field of ecosystem ecology, hydromorphology-ecology linkages, remote sensing (e.g., infrared thermography, hydrophones, acoustic doppler profiler, unmanned aerial systems, etc.) for application in real-time freshwater research, as well as effective management of hydropeaking and river restoration projects.

EFFS Award for the best PhD Dissertation in Freshwater Sciences - Subsidiary Prizes

Sami Domisch

Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (BiK-F) Frankfurt and Senckenberg, Germany.



Sami Domisch conducted his PhD at the Senckenberg Research Institute, and the Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (BiK-F) in Frankfurt, Germany. During his PhD studies, Sami investigated the possible effects of climate warming on the distribution of benthic macroinvertebrates using species distribution models. These studies resulted in several ISI papers, including journals such as 'Global Change Biology', 'Freshwater Biology' or 'Nature Climate Change'. He is currently working as a postdoc at Bik-F focusing on climate-change effects on cryptic biodiversity, as well as on the influence of river flow regimes on the occurrence of benthic invertebrates. From autumn 2013 on Sami will continue working on global-change effects on freshwater biota at Yale University.

David X. Soto

University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, Canada.



David X. Soto is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Biology at the University of New Brunswick (UNB, Fredericton, Canada) where he commenced the position as Science Manager of the Stable Isotopes in Nature Laboratory (SINLAB) in February 2012. David has obtained a wealth of field/lab and analytical expertise in stable isotope ecology during his research experience, which includes his leadership and participation in several multi-disciplinary projects in Spain and Canada (Environment Canada). His graduate research work at the Center for Advanced Studies of Blanes - Spanish National Research Council (CEAB-CSIC) was dedicated to investigate the food web structure in freshwater ecosystems combining trace metal bioaccumulation and stable isotopes. In 2011, he completed his PhD at the University of Barcelona, Spain. David has been recognized for his PhD thesis and productivity with the 2012 award for the best thesis in limnological research from the Iberian Association of Limnology (AIL). His research interests are currently focused on studying aquatic trophic ecology and animal migration involving stable isotopes, as well as the complexities of hydrogen and oxygen isotope analysis of organic materials.

European Federation for Freshwater Sciences

Notes of the Meeting of Representatives

held in the Mövenpick Hotel Münster, Pavillon 3, Kardinal-von-Galen-Ring 65
48149 Münster, Germany
on Tuesday 2nd of July, 2013, on the occasion of the SEFS 8 meeting

Present: **Luigi Naselli-Flores** (Chair); **Alan Hildrew** (representing the Freshwater Biological Association); **Philippe Cecchi**, **Florence Hulot** (representing Association Française de Limnologie); **Giuseppe Morabito** (representing Associazione Italiana di Oceanologia e Limnologia); **Antonio Camacho** (representing Asociación Ibérica de Limnología); **Martin Rulík** (representing Česká Limnologická Společnost); **Elisabeth Meyer** (representing Deutsche Gesellschaft für Limnologie); **Geta Rîşnoveanu** (representing Societatea Română de Ecologia); **Maria Leichtfried** (representing Verein Österreichischer Limnologen); **Christiane Ilg**, (on behalf of Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Hydrologie und Limnologie); **Martha Illyová** (on behalf of Slovenská Limnologická Spoločnosť). Additionally, by invitation of the Chair, **Núria Bonada**, **Vincenç Acuña**, **Dominik Schittny** and **Máté Vass** representing the EFYR.

Apologies for absence: **Iwona Jasser** (Polskie Towarzystwo Hydrobiologiczne); **Anne Liljendahl** (Suomen Limnologinen Yhdistys).

Welcome. Luigi Naselli-Flores opened the meeting at 18.30 and welcomed delegates. He thanked warmly Elisabeth Meyer, the Chair of the Organizing Committee of the SEFS8, for her excellent work in arranging one of the most successful Symposia to be held so far.

Item 1 – To report progress in the period 2012 – 2013: membership and representation; website and communication; enrolment of newly federated national organizations (actual and potential). The Chair briefly reviewed progress since the Girona meeting in 2011. Two new associations have been formally enrolled: the Swiss Society for Hydrology and Limnology (Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Hydrologie und Limnologie – SGHL) and the Finnish Limnological Society (Suomen Limnologinen Yhdistys – SLY). The number of federated European Associations/societies has now reached 14. In terms of a possible further increase in this number, the meeting considered the situation of scientists in those countries where a formal national association does not yet exist. They could: i) informally create a group of interested professionals, ii) then ask as a group to join the EFFF and iii) appoint two representatives to connect the new informal group to the Federation. This might work, for instance, in the case of Greece but possibly also for other European countries. In this way, scientists involved in freshwater sciences would benefit from membership of the Federation (e.g. by being eligible for student awards). The Chairman was asked to explore the possibility for such potential new groups and their joining EFFF. With regard to the EFFF website, our activities are now displayed at www.freshwatersciences.eu. This website was registered and created thanks to an agreement with Springer, who paid € 2,500 for an advert on the home page for a 5-year

period. Creation of the website cost € 1,942.05. It contains a BLOG to spread information, a page of NEWS, a page of JOB/VACANCIES, a page on SEFS, and several other items. Additional costs for renewing the internet domain in 2012 were € 145.20. A remaining amount of € 412.75, administered by the Italian Association for Oceanology and Limnology, should cover maintenance costs for the next two years. Since the website contains several pages, additional space could be sold to other Publishers/Enterprises linked to freshwater sciences, providing income to the Federation.

Item 2 – *Future of EFFS: its goals and its relationships with other international scientific societies.* Given the approach from the Society for Freshwater Sciences (ex North American Benthological Society), Alan Hildrew (FBA), was asked to speak about the future development of EFFS. During this discussion it was revealed, for instance, that SFS had approached the Iberian Limnologists to consider their becoming a 'Chapter' of SFS – which is clearly seeking a more global role. Alan explained the origins of the SEFS meetings, which were an initiative of the Freshwater Biological Association and were designed to give young European freshwater ecologists the kind of informal, high quality meetings provided by NABS and ASLO in North America. At that time it was not thought necessary to propose the formation of a new 'European Society', given the complex community of national associations/societies in Europe. However, a meeting alone does not provide all the functions/services of a continent-wide society, such as outreach, education, influence on policy, professional development etc. Such functions are provided in N America by large Societies such as SFS and ASLO. Further, it could be easier to deal, on a more equal footing, with these societies, and with the existing 'global' freshwater/limnological society SIL, if EFFS did decide on a more formal 'superstructure', with a Europe-wide membership building on (not competing with) the existing national organisations.

There followed a debate on this topic, with the question set of whether it is yet time to consider such a more formal European alliance? It was agreed that: i) EFFS is a consortium of European professional societies aimed at facilitating international collaboration among their members; ii) it has been created to promote synergies among the different European countries in the field of freshwater (biological/ecological) sciences with a special attention to the scientific growth of young researchers and supporting the establishment of new collaboration/contacts across Europe; iii) its functioning does not depend on collecting further membership fees and that it is strongly based on a voluntary service given by the representatives. Moreover, EFFS scope is also to increase and coordinate knowledge of freshwater sciences on a European basis, but being sensitive to the plurality of national cultures, organisations and legislation. Keeping in mind all these features, the representatives think that the actual structure of the Federation still ensures the flexibility necessary for achieving all its goals, without further costs to members. Nevertheless, EFFS is happy to open collaborations with other, 'more conventional', scientific associations, particularly with regard to career and professional development of its young members. The meeting agreed to keep these matters open for further consideration as required.

Item 3 - *EFFS and EFYR. EFFS Award.* During the last SEFS in Girona, the young members of the federated national associations, following the example of the junior researchers of the Iberian Limnological Society (AIL Jóvenes), decided to create a group which has been

named European Fresh and Young Researchers (EFYR). The group established a Facebook page and is demonstrably very active in sharing information and establishing contacts useful for undergraduates and new researchers. The group has also promoted the establishment of the EFFS Award for the best European PhD thesis. This idea was enthusiastically received by the national representatives and, after an initial sift at the national scale by the single federated societies/associations, this resulted in the submission to an international jury of the two best PhD dissertations produced in each country. A winner and two 'runners up' resulted from the selection procedure and an award ceremony was held during the opening ceremony of SEFS8. The first plenary lecture at SEFS8, *Acoustic and thermal characterization of river landscapes*, was thus given by Dr. Diego Tonolla (Switzerland), the winner of the EFFS Award for the best European PhD dissertation. The theses by Dr. Sami Domish (*Species distribution modelling of stream macroinvertebrates under climate change scenarios*) and Dr. David X. Soto (*Combining trace metal bioaccumulation and stable isotopes to reveal food web structure in freshwater ecosystems*), from Germany and from Spain respectively, were highly commended and selected for prizes. Given the success of this first edition of the EFFS Award, a second call will be soon launched to select the best theses defended in the two years 2013 and 2014.

Item 4 - *Venue for 2015 SEFS meeting*. One of the duties of the Chairman of EFFS is to seek a venue for the next SEFS. The Chair thus invited Christiane Ilg, attending the meeting on behalf of the Swiss Society for Hydrology and Limnology, to present the candidacy of Switzerland to host SEFS9 in 2015. Christiane gave a Power Point presentation of the proposed location (Geneva). The meeting would be arranged jointly by Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Hydrologie und Limnologie and Association Française de Limnologie with three active co-organizers: Bernard Montuelle, INRA Thonon, France; Bastiaan Ebelings, University of Geneva CH; and Beat Oertli, Hepia - University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland). All the representatives unanimously and enthusiastically approve the proposal. In addition, Martin Rulík (Czech Limnological Society) offered to host SEFS 10 in the Czech Republic, though other candidates could still come forward.

Item 5 - *Appointment of a Convenor for the period 2014 - 2015*. The Chair brought to the attention of the representatives that his term of office is at the end and there is the need to appoint a new convenor. Alan Hildrew pointed out that, according to the EFFS Constitution, the chairman may be eligible for re-election for two further periods of two years and, after confirming that Luigi Naselli-Flores was willing to serve for another term, proposed his appointment to 2015. The representatives unanimously approve and Luigi Naselli-Flores sincerely thanked his colleagues.

Item 6 – *Any Other Business* – Elisabeth Meyer asked the Chairman to change the EFFS webpage on MEMBERS by adding, in addition to links to each association/society webpage, the logos and further information on the federated societies. The representatives of the EFYR also asked for the website to be modified by merging the pages EFYR and BLOG. This way the BLOG can become an effective tool for young members to keep in touch and exchange information. Luigi Naselli-Flores agreed to ask the webmaster to implement the requested changes. Philippe Cecchi asked whether we

should involve 'non-European' scientists in our activities and in particular about the possibility of support for people from African countries. Alan Hildrew described how individual members of the FBA can "sponsor" colleagues from developing countries, and suggested that this could be adopted by other member organisations.

There being no other business, Luigi Naselli-Flores was asked to prepare draft minutes of the meeting for circulation and approval. All correspondence shall be electronic and, initially, confined to representatives. The meeting concluded at 20.00.

EFFS meets SFS

Notes from the round table held on Thursday, July 4, 2013

Following an exchange of e-mails and the contacts established on behalf of EFFS by Elisabeth Meyer who attended the meeting of the Society for Freshwater Sciences (SFS) in Jacksonville (USA), the past President of SFS, Dave Penrose, the elected President, Randall Fuller and Susan Watson, attended the SEFS8 in Münster to explore the possibility to set a collaboration agreement between SFS and EFFS.

A round table among representatives of the Society for Freshwater Sciences (formerly North American Benthological Society) and of the EFFS took place in Münster, at the Mövenpick Hotel on July 4, 2013.

The outcomes of the meeting can be summarized as:

1. SFS and EFFS profoundly differ in their organization: SFS is a formal society based on membership collection and mainly addressed to a “uniform” North American audience, even though many of its members are not from North America. SFS, as well as ASLO provide all the functions/services of a continent-wide society, such as outreach, education, influence on policy, professional development etc. EFFS is a federation of National Societies/Associations, which does not collect memberships or have any other economic income, based on the volunteer work offered by the representatives of each society/association without influential abilities with regard to policy. This is partly due to the fact that EFFS houses a wide array of national and regional legislative rules and languages and it has not any jurisdiction in the national business, which are competence of the national societies. However, it aspires at creating a common scientific feeling toward freshwater sciences across Europe, to increase the general quality of scientific knowledge produced in Europe on freshwaters and to widen mobility and working perspectives for PhD students and young scientists. Moreover, recruitment of new members is not an issue of EFFS as it is granted by the single associations on a national basis.
2. In spite of the above quoted differences, SFS and EFFS promote common issues, e.g. a forum for young scientists where to meet and exchange knowledge and experience, students mobility across Europe/North America, transition from student to early professional careers (jobs), blending science across disciplines – interdisciplinary, increasing the role of underrepresented and underserved individuals, basic education – learning basic science.

After discussing and clarifying the diverse role of these two different “associations” some proposals of cooperation were suggested in order to widen the services offered to the members of SFS and to those of the federated European societies/associations. In particular, the collaboration could be addressed at the possibility to organize in the future a conference in common or special sessions at current conferences, or to establish committees in common. Both the groups of representatives were also interested in finding a way to facilitate the mutual participation of students at their respective meetings.

EFYR MEETING – MÜNSTER 04/07/2013

The participants agreed on the following:

- 1) Moving from Facebook to other social media platform. EFYR members were concerned about privacy settings in Facebook. Furthermore, many of them do not use Facebook or only use it for personal purposes. We proposed to use the EFFS blog and open it to everyone (i.e. everyone can post), having Luigi Naselli as “moderator”, so any inappropriate entry to the blog can be deleted. Anyone can report inappropriate entries. We will also create a Twitter account. Nuria Cid, Nuria Catalán and any other EFYR member with previous experience as a blogger will take charge of designing the blog (but not to maintain it, it will be self-maintained by the whole EFYR community) and N. Cid will create the Twitter account.
EFYR members will have links to national associations in the blog and update for fellowships and job vacancies.
- 2) The participants agreed to have a more horizontal structure, where national representatives are not further needed (or, might only act as contact points). We will ask Luigi to remove the national representative list from the EFFS website.
- 3) For the next SEFS meeting EFYR members plan to have:
 - a) A course on manuscript writing. Clara Mendoza and Ute Risse will start the necessary contacts to make it happen. It would be good to invite as a “teacher” someone attending the SEFS meeting (e.g. a plenary speaker).
 - b) Seminar on career development. Vicenç Acuña will contact potential speakers (e.g. researchers awarded with a Marie Curie fellowship) and Dominik Schittny will help to organize it.
 - c) Get together with journal editors. Núria Bonada will contact the editors and organise the activity together with Veronique Rosset.
 - d) Thesis, talk and poster awards. Springer offered the possibility to to publish the thesis awarded as the best European thesis by SEFS. It could be published once all the papers in it have been published and cited as a regular paper. All attendees agree on that and thanked Springer for this initiative.
 - e) Get together activities. Recreational activities to get together young researchers and senior scientists.
- 4) EFYR members agree in increasing the visibility of EFYR in the following meetings:
Fresh Blood for Fresh Water meeting of young Austrian scientists will be held in Innsbruck in 2014. Link to the 2013 meeting: http://www.univie.ac.at/fbfw/2013/material/Abstract_book_FBFW2013_final.pdf.

SFS meeting will be held in Portland (USA) next year. Graduate students can apply for awards to cover for the conference fee and the trip: <https://www.freshwater-science.org/Students-and-Postdocs/Student-Endowment--Awards.aspx>

EFFS Award for the best PhD Dissertation in Freshwater Sciences Call 2013-2014

1. The European Federation for Freshwater Sciences (EFFS) launches a new call of the *EFFS Award for the best PhD Dissertation in Freshwater Sciences*, which will recognize outstanding scientific and intellectual work in the field of Freshwater Sciences performed by Early Career Researchers in Europe.
2. Applicants for this Award will include all authors of doctoral theses submitted in Europe in the field of Freshwater Sciences. Applicants should be members of an Association related to Freshwater Sciences and affiliated to the European Federation for Freshwater Sciences (EFFS). The PhD dissertation can be written in any European language.
3. Applicants should submit their application form to their reference Association. PhD dissertations must be accompanied by an extended abstract in English not longer than 5 printed pages single spaced, and containing a maximum of 4 figures. The extended abstract have to be signed by the supervisor(s) along with the list of publication related to the PhD work.
4. Federated Associations will perform a pre-selection according to common rules and time schedule for selection, and using evaluation criteria similar to those for Marie Curie fellowship proposals. E.g. PhD dissertation will be evaluated according to their scientific/technological quality (score 0-20), originality (0-20), methodological approach (0-20), relevance and potential scientific impact of the work carried out (0-20).
5. For this call, the PhD thesis must have been defended during the years 2013-2014.
6. Each Association can submit two selected PhD dissertations for the final evaluation by the end of January 2015. This number is increased proportionally for those Associations collecting members from more than one European country (e.g. AIL collects both Spanish and Portuguese members and the number of dissertations can be 4). In any case, no more than four dissertations can be presented by each association.
7. The final evaluation will be carried out by an international Jury by the end of February 2015. Members of the Jury are identified among the members of the Board of Representatives at EFFS. The evaluation criteria are based on the evaluation reports submitted by national associations, and by the attribution of the scores specified in 4 (above) to the extended English abstract in English (point 3).

8. The Award will consider one main and two subsidiary prizes:
 - The main prize will consist of a Diploma and a grant to attend the next Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences (SEFS), including registration fee, travel and lodging. During this meeting, the winning author will be required to give a dedicated Plenary Lecture on his/her PhD dissertation topic.
 - The winners of the subsidiary prizes will receive a Diploma and a grant covering the registration fee to attend the next Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences (SEFS).
9. Recipients of the Awards will be informed at least three months before the opening day of SEFS.
10. An awards ceremony will take place just before the dedicated Plenary Lecture. In addition to the Plenary Lecture – given by the main prize winner - the three winning theses will be exhibited during the next SEFS meeting in a section of the venue dedicated to the association of European Fresh and Young Researchers (EFYR). The exhibition will include at least one hard copy of the theses (we will also encourage the distribution of e-copies) and a poster explaining the contents of each winning thesis. Hard copies, electronic copies (if any), and posters must be provided by the authors themselves.

According to EFFF constitution, each federated organization is entitled to be represented by two members in the Federation, and it is up to the organization to appoint its representatives. Please check the enclosed list of Representatives and inform me if any change is required.

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