

Report

IEFC Annual General Assembly 2005

Porto, March 15th

The IEFC annual general meeting was organised in partnership with the Portuguese University UCP – Universidade Católica de Portugal and took place in an auditorium room of this University, Tuesday, March the 15th 2005.

It was presided over by the IEFC Chairwoman Margarida Tomé.

There were 24 members attending the assembly (see enclosed file), a sheet of paper was signed by all those who were present. From the 26 organisations members of the IEFC 14 were represented. From the 3 associated members organisations 1 was represented

Participants

Members:

LUGO : Agustin Merino
USSE: Iñaki Isasi Pérez
UTAD: João Manuel Bento
UCP: Américo Mendes
INRA: Jean Michel Carnus
CIF - Lourizan : Javier Silva
GAVRN : Carmen Traver
NEIKER : Inazio de Araño
CRPF: Amélie Castro
ISA: Margarida Tomé
EFN: Margarida Tomé
RAIZ: Nuno Borralho
FGUVA: Jorge Martin
ESAC: Raul Salas

Associated members:

Western Forest Cooperation: Raymond Gallagher

Decisions

The following deliberations were submitted to a vote session:

D1: The moral report presented by Margarida Tomé was accepted by the Assembly.
D2: The financial report presented by Christian Pinaudeau was accepted by the Assembly.

The following resolutions were approved:

R1: The IEFC will apply for the Cost Action presented by Christophe Orazio
R2: The IEFC will apply for the Marie Curie network as proposed by Jean-Michel Carnus.
R3: The next IEFC Annual Meeting will take place on March 13th 2005 in CRPF of Bordeaux.

Presentations

Business meeting

Moral Report:

Margarida Tomé presented the moral report of the IEFC for the year 2004. There were no questions asked.

Financial Report:

Christian Pinaudeau presented the financial report of the IEFC for the year 2004. The accountancy for the year 2004 was reviewed by the accountant M. Minjon (member of the French Accountancy Association) and was supervised by our official accountant: M. Giraud, also member of the French Accountancy Association.

Incomings:

The total amount of incomings for the year 2004 was of 130 000 euros. Most of the incomings of the IEFC come from the subventions that are received for the project that are organised. Some of the incomings also come from the membership's fees that in the year 2004 corresponded to 8100 euros. For the incomings of 2004 we should also take into account the registrations fees of the Symposium: "Forest Soils under local and global changes – from research to practice" that was organised by the IEFC during the month of September 2004.

Expenditure:

Most of the expenditure of the IEFC is related to overheads, rent, insurances and travel expenses, but the main amount goes to the human resources. In what concerns the investments there were 16 700 euros spent in furniture and software.

Conclusion:

There is a positive result for the year 2004, the IEFC was able to put 52 000 euros on its savings account. However the total of the grant that the IEFC is supposed to receive for the FORSEE project is not clear on these results. It is only taking into account the first amounts that were received from the FEDER and the regional grants.

M. Pinaudeau remembered all the members that it is important to spend the grant that we are going to receive from the FEDER to the FORSEE project, to prove that the project is developing, on decemeber 2004 only 24% of the budget was certified.

Questions:

Raul Salas from ESAC asked if within the FORSEE project there was the possibility of transferring the grant from year to year. For example if we could use the grant for 2004 only on 2005.

Orazio answered that there was no problem to change the grant between the years, but it is more complicated to do it between the several categories.

Agustin Merino from the University of Lugo said he had had different information from his national correspondent, because they had to spend the grant for 2004 during the year 2004.

Orazio explained that that even if the INTERREG programme had to justify to the European Union as much money as possible before end of 2004 we are allow spending the money of a year an other year. He gets an official e-mail.

Annual Report:

The annual report was presented by Christophe Orazio, director of the IEFC.

The FORSEE project was presented.

Questions:

Concerning the FORSEE project Jean-Michel Carnus, from INRA, asked if Cantabrie was in or out of the project.

Orazio answered saying that the new government of Cantabrie will not pay their part on the project, but there is still no official answer. As a justification they said that they are not responsible for the decisions taken by the previous government. There are two consequences coming from this decision: the grant from the FEDER for Cantabrie is free; the IEFC will not receive his part of the grant from Cantabrie, which means that after October the 30th 2006 the IEFC will be facing some financial problems if the project time schedule is not followed.

The INDISFAE2 project was presented.

There were no questions asked.

The Maritime Pine Monograph was presented.

Christophe Orazio explained that by June 2005 the common work is supposed to be done. There are many papers that are almost finished, but have not been put online yet.

Questions:

Jean-Michel Carnus asked what had been decided about the budget to publish this monograph. Orazio answered saying that we are already sure that the French version is going to be paid by INRA and there are good chances that the Spanish version will be paid by INIA. An other opportunity came also from the Forest Spanish science society. The English and Portuguese versions have no funds for the moment.

Nuno Borralho from RAIZ explained that the problem is that the technical publications are usually very expensive, and also, they never leave a quite selected circuit, not getting to the main stakeholders.

Orazio agreed saying that no one feels responsible for publishing these kind of publications.

Nuno Borralho also thinks that all those that are associated with the members of the IEFC should have a special price. Margarida Tomé said that it will be quite difficult to define who is associated with the members of the IEFC.

The international conference “Biodiversity and Plantations Forests”

that is being organised by the IEFC was presented. This international conference will take place in Bordeaux from the 26th to the 27th of April 2005.

the DEFOR project was presented.

This project was submitted to the second call for projects of the INTERREG IIIB programme South West Area. Unfortunately the project was not approved.

Questions:

Jean-Michel Carnus stated that it was a good project and that we still had an opportunity to submit it on the INTERREG IIIB programme of the Atlantic Arc. Orazio answered saying that it would be difficult because there are some areas of the project that are not part of the Atlantic Arc. Anyway, we will try to find an other opportunity for applying.

The Eforwood project was presented

by Jean-Michel Carnus. This project was presented last year in Bilbao and it has already passed the first stage of selection. By the end of May there will be a definitive answer. This project will have a grant from the European Union of 12 M euros, but only 2.5 M are dedicated to forestry. IEFC is not directly involved.

Questions:

Christian Pinaudeau asked why the IEFC was not directly linked with the project. Carnus answered that it was given to the fact that the IEFC is not a research institution.

The Marie Currie proposal was presented

Carnus only remembered the proposal made the previous year and suggested us to apply again. Everybody agreed.

Orazio presented the Cost action

a future project aiming at establishing a standard scheme to facilitate exchange of forest data and preserve compatibility of archives.

Question:

Inazio Martinez de Araño from NEIKER found difficult to have an initiative that is formed with common data and that can be exchanged. It can be difficult to decide what common data is. For Orazio we can ask the information to the different countries and then harmonize it. Inazio still said that it will be too much work. Orazio answered saying that it is not that ambitious, we don't codify all the data, we just codify their organisation. (ex : we say that for tree can exist a field species, but we don't give a code to all the species) The only problem is to build the XML scheme. The first step is to know in what we can work on. Carnus said that we will not work on the data but on the format. Orazio agreed saying that the idea was not to work on the data but to know how to arrange it in a compatible way. Inazio said that maybe we could narrow the data and make it more specific, not working with all the forest activities. Orazio said that he was open to suggestions.

There were no more presentations.

Margarida tome considered the meeting as closed.

The IEFC annual general assembly was followed by a press conference communicating to the press in Portugal the activities of the IEFC. And most of the participant attended to the meal.

PS : slides and budgets are available online in IEFC intranet (id : IEFC, password : member)

