

## **Report of Global Sponsorship Committee: Activities from 2017**

Dr. Alessandra Fidelis

The Global Sponsorship Committee is composed by: Alessandra Fidelis (Brazil, chair), Alireza Naqinezhad (Iran), Borja Jiménez-Alfaro (Germany), Lauchlan Fraser (Canada) and David Zeleny (Taiwan).

During this period, we discussed and approved the decision of travel grant allocation made by the European Dry Grassland Executive Committee for the Meeting in Riga, Latvia (Eurasian Grassland Conference) and the EDGG Field Workshop. The total sum allocated was 2,835 euros for the EDGG Field Workshop and 2,700 euros for the Eurasian Grassland Conference. The European Vegetation Survey Executive Committee approved 6 applications for the Meeting in Bilbao, Spain (total of 5,522 euros).

For the 60<sup>th</sup>. Annual Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science, we received 94 applications, from 38 different countries, mostly from from Brazil (22), Portugal and Russia (5 each), and Italy and Estonia (4 each). We received more than 50% of applications from female researchers. Undergraduate, Master, PhD students, as well as Post-docs accounted for 40% of all applications.

The criteria used by the GSC were: abstract (2/5), motivation letter (2/5) and age (the younger the better; 1/5). We believed that merit was one of the most important for the evaluation of the applications. Applicants that received the grant in former years were eligible, but they received a lower amount of money (70%), as well as applicants from countries with high income.

The GSC granted 29 applicants from 14 countries, mostly from Brazil (6), Estonia (4), China and Portugal (3 each), but also Indonesia and Iran. Most of the awardees were students and Post-Docs. Grants varied from 210 – 1550 euros (total of EUR 19,530).

I also wanted to call your attention for the importance of this travel grant. Last year, in Brazil, we had several awardees among the people who received travel grants:

- Anina Coetzee (South Africa): best oral presentation (EU 1300)
- Nathalia Bonani (Brazil): best poster presentation (EUR 210)
- Elizabeth Gorgone-Barbosa: honorable mention for oral presentation (EUR 210)
- Anaclara Guido (Brazil): honorable mention for poster presentation (EUR 210)

- Joosep Sarapuu (Estonia): honorable mention for poster presentation (EUR 850)