

Report of Global Sponsorship Committee: Activities from 2018

Dr. Alessandra Fidelis

The Global Sponsorship Committee is composed of: 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 Eastern Alps, Austria (Eurasian Grassland Conference) and the EDGG Field Workshop. The total sum allocated was 5,000 euros (2,500 euros for the EDGG Field Workshop and 2,500 euros for the Eurasian Grassland Conference). The European Vegetation Survey Executive Committee approved 14 applications for the Meeting in Wroclav, Poland (total of 5,000 euros).

For the 61th Annual Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science, we received 63 applications, from 22 different countries, mostly from Brazil (11), USA (11), Australia, Canada and India (4 each). Undergraduate, Master, PhD students, as well as Post-docs accounted for 68% of all applications. The number of applications from countries from Africa and Asia has increased, but still these are the continents from which we usually receive fewer applications. Furthermore, from Latin America, we usually receive applications from only Brazil.

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 criteria 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 did applicants from countries with high income.

The GSC granted 16 awards to applicants from 11 countries, mostly from Brazil (4), Germany and USA (2 each), but also Indonesia, Ghana and South Africa. Most of the awardees were students. Grants varied from 270 – 2050 euros (total of EUR 19,770).