



## LAUDATE FOR SANDRA LUQUE IALE VICE PRESIDENT 2005 – 2013

If you don't know Sandra, go to the next IUFRO Landscape Ecology meeting and you will meet an enthusiastic, energetic person full of ideas and who is always ready to chat about Landscape Ecology. Sandra amalgamates three life styles from South American to North American to Europe: born in Argentina, higher education in New Jersey, USA, senior researcher in France at Cemagref and now a longer stay in the UK. Who would know more IALE members and mentalities than her? During her Vice Presidency with IALE International her biggest success was the foundation of the Latin American chapters, where she assisted the chapter set-up and the subsequent activities with great enthusiasm. But South America was not her only focus: she actively promoted several IALE education initiatives and actively promoted the contacts to our sister organizations, e.g. the IUFRO network. Thanks to her, the two organizations started an intensive collaboration. Being the head of the IUFRO Landscape Ecology working group, Sandra is now able to collect the fruits of this collaborative effort.

I was on the IALE board with Sandra for exactly 8 years and sincerely, I appreciated her contributions very very much. Why? She voiced her views when others were quiet and was never afraid to ask hard questions and depart from the "business-as-usual" mode of operation. As President I was lucky enough to have her as a critical thinker, always ready to serve the members of IALE and always thinking about the greater whole ... the IALE members.

Sandra, keep this for your next career steps!

by **Felix Kienast**, current President of IALE International



## BOJIE FU - IALE VICE PRESIDENT 2009 - 2013

Perhaps no one to date has had a bigger contribution to advances in landscape ecology in Asia than Bojie. During his tenure as Vice President Bojie was able to grow the China Chapter to the largest chapter in IALE.

He also encouraged other outstanding scientists from China to get involved in IALE including Liding Chen (new Vice President) and Xiuzhen Li (Chair of the IALE Council). One of Bojie's biggest contributions and successes was organizing and hosting the 8th IALE World Congress in Beijing in August 2011 (see [IALE Bulletin 29/3](#)).

The Congress was attended by more than 850 participants representing 47 countries, with about 60% of the participants from developing countries. There were also a record number of travel grants for students to attend the congress (more than 50). Bojie's tremendous organizational skills and enthusiasm lead to a very successful congress. Several special publications resulted from the congress, including a special issue in Landscape Ecology and a book entitled Landscape Ecology for Sustainable Environment and Culture that Bojie and I edited.

We all are very grateful for Bojie's service to IALE and the huge difference he has made in bringing in an area of the world where the principles of landscape ecology can make a big difference in sustaining both culture and the environment.

Thank you Bojie ... you will be missed!

by **Bruce Jones**, past President of IALE International



## NEWS FROM IALE-EUROPE

– Report of activities during the European Congress and results of the elections

During the successful European Congress in Manchester (9-12 September 2013), two meetings were organized by IALE-Europe and elections were held for a new Executive Committee and Representative for the Council of IALE for the period 2013-2017.



<http://www.iale-europe.eu/>

Since close collaboration with all the national chapters is fundamental for IALE-Europe, we organized an informal meeting on Monday 9th of September 2013 with the representatives of the national chapters. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the interactions among the European and the national chapters and to identify possible collaborations. 18 representatives of 10 national countries participated in an open and fruitful talk, resulting in clear agreements for future collaboration between the national, European and international IALE.

On Wednesday 11th of September 2013, the second General Assembly of IALE-Europe took place. In total 34 people from 17 different countries participated, gathering members of IALE-Europe, as well as people who are interested in the association, including the president and secretary general of IALE. The meeting was chaired by the president of IALE-Europe (Teresa Pinto Correia) and the representative of IALE-Europe for the IALE Council (Hubert Wiggering).

These were the main topics and conclusions:

- 1. Statutes of IALE-Europe:** IALE-Europe was founded in July 2009 (on the European congress in Salzburg), and during this foundation meeting the statutes, not in contradiction to the existing statutes of IALE, were approved. In the starting phase of the European association, the organisation shifted from a more informal organised organisation (with working groups to prepare the foundation of the association) to a more formal one, which included the official registration of the association and opening of a bank account. As latter has proven only to be possible having a legal status, the Executive Committee took the initiative to register the IALE-Europe as an association under the Portuguese law (IALE-Europe was officially registered in Évora, 23 april 2012). Therefore however, it was necessary to reorganise the original statutes. The adaptations do not change anything to the original spirit of IALE-Europe or to the democratic principles included into the original statutes. The adapted statutes “Statutes with Specific Regulations for the European Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE-Europe)” were sent to all the members of IALE-Europe before the General Assembly; this document was discussed, adapted and approved during the General Assembly.
- 2. Report of the activities:** every four years on the meeting of the General Assembly, a report is given by the running Executive Committee, giving an overview of all the activities, actions ... as well as the financial report since the last General Assembly. The aim of the report is to give an overview of the past activities to all members, the national chapters and the international IALE. These reports will be published on the website.
- 3. Elections of new Executive Committee and Representative for the Council of IALE:** following the statutes and procedure for elections, elections need to be organised every four years on the meeting of the General Assembly.

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One list was given to the chair of the nominating committee before the meeting. The complete list was elected (25 yes, 0 no, 0 obtain) as the Executive Committee for the period of 2013-2017:

- President: Teresa Pinto-Correia (Portugal)
- Secretary General: Veerle Van Eetvelde (Belgium)
- Treasurer: Emilio Padoa-Schioppa (Italy)
- 4th member: Janez Pirnat (Slovenia)
- 5th (additional) member: Isabel Loupa Ramos (Portugal)
- 6th (additional) member: Lone S. Kristensen (Denmark)
- 7th (additional) member: Jonathan Porter (UK)

One member was nominated as representative for the Council of IALE and he was elected (25 yes, 0 no, 0 obtain) for the period of 2013-2017:

- Hubert Wiggering (Germany).

According to the recent statutes, an internal auditor who will function as the audit committee must be elected,

- Stig Roar Svenningsen (Denmark)

was candidate and is appointed as internal auditor for the period of 2013-2017.

The EC presented an action and activity plan for the next four years, focussing on the working groups, engagement of members, attention for individual members, collaboration with national chapters and IALE-International, the organisation of thematic seminars, intensive PhD courses, the European congress and the website and communication.

The activities to be developed will continue to be within the frame "Setting the Scene" document, prepared and widely discussed at Salzburg in 2009, when the chapter was established. The ideas expressed in this document have widely been spread through a paper, "How Landscape Ecology Can Promote the Development of Sustainable Landscapes in Europe – The role of the European Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE Europe) in the 21st century", published in *Landscape Ecology* (Antrop et al 2013).

The newly elected EC is hoping that IALE-Europe will have another four energetic years with a lot of

synergy between all IALE members and inspiring activities for the whole community of European (and other) landscape ecologists. The minutes of the meeting are sent to all the members of IALE-Europe, the new statutes and activity plan of the newly elected EC is published on the website of IALE-Europe [www.iale-europe.eu](http://www.iale-europe.eu).

by Veerle Van Eetvelde, Secretary General IALE-Europe

## EXPERIENCES FROM THE IALE-EUROPE PHD COURSE "EUROPEAN LANDSCAPES IN TRANSITION: THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN LOCAL AND GLOBAL DRIVERS"

IALE-Europe is aiming to organize an intensive PhD course every year. After the successful first edition in Évora (June 2012), the 2nd edition of the IALE-Europe PhD course was organized September 2013 in conjunction with the 2013 European Congress, which was hosted by ialeUK and IALE-Europe in Manchester from 9th to the 12th September of 2013 ([www.iale2013.eu](http://www.iale2013.eu)). The organization of the course was in the hands of IALE-Europe and the University of Manchester. Besides IALE-Europe financial contribution to the course, also the Portuguese Chapter (APEP) gave support the participation of the two Portuguese students.



Susanne Frank and Vincent Van der Heyden during the closing session of the European Congress

Photo: Rocco Labadessa

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To take best advantage of the congress, the course started before the congress and continued afterwards. In this way students got to know each other and mentors in a way that made them all work as a group during the congress. They also got the task to talk with at least one participant of the congress who was of interest for their own PhD research and discuss their topic with them. Two students gave their feedback on their participation during the closing session of the congress. Afterwards, the group moved to Hathersage located in the outstanding landscape of the Peak District. This setting was suitable to engage into key lectures, joint scientific discussions, small group work and a field trip, but also into joint cooking sessions, bringing about a variety of gastronomic experiences, as related to the students' home landscapes.



Students presented posters and oral communications during the congress. Here Beatriz Pierri Daunt

Photo: Rocio Pérez-Campaña

15 young researchers came together from 9 countries, both from inside and outside Europe: Andrzej Affek (PL), Beatriz Pierri Daunt (BR), Carlos Guerra (PT), Hugo Oliveira (PT), Ludovico Frate (IT), Luigi La Riccia (IT), Mirek Dymitrow (SE), Pablo Valls Donderis (ES), Paolo Picchi (IT), Rebekka Dossche (BE), Richard Fuchs (NL), Rocco Labadessa (IT), Rocio Pérez-Campaña (ES), Susanne Frank (DE) and Vincent Van der Heyden (BE). Senior researchers were also present during the whole course to lecture and foremost to mentor in thematic groups focused on

the issues addressed by the students in their papers and engage with the students in informal discussions: Anna Gilchrist (UK), Bas Pedroli (NL), Isabel Loupa Ramos (PT), Jørgen Primdahl (DK), Marc Antrop (BE), Simon Smart (UK), Teresa Pinto Correia (PT) and Veerle van Eetvelde (BE).



Sessions in Hathersage that took place in the Methodist Church Hall  
Photos: Isabel Loupa Ramos

Following some comments from young researchers on their experience in Manchester and Peak District:

*“The PhD course was a good experience where we could share knowledge with students from several countries. We spent four days in Peak District, which is a beautiful British national park, although we were*

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most of the time involved in interesting lectures and discussions on landscape issues. We received some very valuable input for our PhDs and possible research careers from expert professionals.”

**by Pablo Valls Donderis**

“Although I had already finished my PhD some weeks before, I participated in the PhD course and I came back home with many interesting ideas I would like to develop in the future. Research is a long-distance race and the input received in Manchester (both in the course and in the IALE European Congress) was refreshing. And, in addition, I made new friends. What else could I ask for?”

**by Rocío Pérez-Campaña**

“Being a new member of IALE, the PhD course – along with the IALE 2013 European Congress – was my first comprehensive introduction into landscape ecology. It was a great opportunity to meet colleagues from different countries, both as a platform for future networking and as a chance to meet some very nice people. Set amidst beautiful landscapes of England, the course elaborated on general scientific and subject specific issues, both practical and theoretical, to better understand and study the processes of

changing European landscapes. The combination of Manchester’s grandeur and the intimacy of the countryside around Hathersage provided a well-balanced setting to an interesting 10-day period, including plenty of feed-back on my paper presentation given at the Congress. My recollections from the course are highly positive, not least thanks to a dedicated and very competent international cadre.”

**by Mirek Dymitrow**

“The PhD course was one of the most enriching experiences as student that I’ve had the opportunity to be. I’ve no words to explain how much all professors helped me, how much I’ve learn and how much I’ve enjoyed the PhD course. Meeting other PhD students was really great, and they also helped me a lot. Stay at Peak District was also amazing, such a beautiful place, I’ve enjoyed every minute.”

**by Beatriz Pierri Daunt**

In line with the mission statement of IALE-Europe, one of the main goals is to invest into the dissemination of landscape ecology. In this context, the IALE-Europe executive committee has decided to promote a PhD Advanced course on a yearly basis focused on issues relevant to today’s European Landscapes.



Cooking and dinning in Hathersage



Photos: Veerle van Eetvelde (left); Andrzej Affek (right)

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The presence of seven of last year's students actively participating in this year's conference, by presenting papers, organizing a symposium and collaborating in the administrative issues of IALE-Europe is an evidence of the relevance of organizing the PhD courses as way to ensure the vigor and prosperity of the IALE community.



Specialists from the National Park led the much-appreciated fieldtrip into the Peak District landscape

Photo: Susanne Frank



Photo: Vincent Van der Heyden

A 3rd edition of the IALE-Europe PhD Advanced Course will take place in 2014. More details will be announced soon on the IALE-Europe website [www.iale-europe.eu](http://www.iale-europe.eu).

by Isabel Loupa Ramos, IALE-Europe EC

## REPORT FROM THE GERMAN IALE CHAPTER MEETING (IALE-D)

Dresden, October 2013

Diverse landscapes: biodiversity, ecosystem services and quality of live“ was the title of the IALE-D annual meeting 2013 in Dresden. About 70 landscape scientists, administrative officials and planners met at the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development to discuss the recent achievements of landscape research.



In 5 symposia, 30 oral presentations were given and 20 posters were discussed. Two young scientists were honored with the IALE-D advancement awards: Christian Albert for his dissertation „Scenario-based Landscape Planning: Influencing Decision-Making through Substantive Outputs and Social Learning“ and Martina Artmann for her master thesis „Traffic noise in the settled area: Municipalities along the motorway in the conflict between economical, ecological and social interests“.



Martina Artmann receives the IALE-D graduate award from the IALE-D Secretary Uta Steinhardt

Photo: local organisers

...continued from page 7 (IALE-D Meeting 2013)

The symposium „Biodiversity – indicators of landscape variety“ dealt among others with the application of indicators to assess ecosystem services. Prof. Jaeger from Montreal presented a new method to measure the urban sprawl and showed how strong this process proceeds even in his Canadian hometown in comparison to Zuerich (Switzerland).



Jochen Jaeger during his speech

Photo: local organisers

Michael Glemnitz as keynote speaker of the symposium “Agro-biodiversity on several scales” pointed out that the extending cultivation of biocrops may also cause positive effects on biodiversity as long as it is not limited to maize and rapeseed monocultures. The German energy transition was a big topic of several sessions because the impacts on landscape quality aren't considered sufficiently with the current enormous subsidies for renewable energies. The symposi-

um “Meaning of biodiversity and ecosystem services for the human welfare in cities” was very busy and showed that urban live will be a key environmental issue of the 21st century.

Recently, physical geography and landscape ecology have attracted increasing attention, due to the promise that their theoretical and methodical concepts may improve the assessment of ecosystem services. Examples of promising approaches rooted in various scientific schools, especially of Eastern Europe and Russia, include: landscape genesis, landscape units, landscape hierarchy, the role of spatial scales, ecosystem patterns and relationships and natural potentials. The conference excursion led to the East Ore Mountains under the title “the value of nature”. The participants visited mountain meadows, peat bogs, creeks, forests and agricultural clearance cairns, which are typical for this Central European Mountain area. The efforts of a federal funded nature protection project to maintain biodiversity and culture heritage were shown there.

The next IALE-D conference in 2014 will take place in Bolzano (Italy) at invitation of the European Academy ([EURAC](http://eurac.org)). The conference proceedings are available for download here:

<http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:bsz:14-qucosa-125392>

by Ralf-Uwe Syrbe and Ulrich Walz

The IALE Bulletin is distributed several times a year to the members of IALE. IALE - the International Association for Landscape Ecology was founded in 1982 to promote communication between scientists, planners and interdisciplinary scientific research. IALE Executive Committee:

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IALE International on the Internet: IALE International: [www.landscape-ecology.org](http://www.landscape-ecology.org)

## ECOTOURISM AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE HIMALAYAN REGION: A CRITIQUE

The natives of Himalayas had been living in their natural domain, rather coexisting with nature for ages, without any sense of deprivation. This tranquillity of life was so overwhelming that this region attracted people from all over who were yearning for inner peace. In the past, the indigenous people never put a 'price tag' on their resources because they held the sanctity of nature very high. They were convinced that nature is an inevitable provider. This worked perfectly for they never drew more than their needs from nature, and always applied their indigenous wisdom to sustain themselves.

As the times changed, the world became an arena of vigorous economic activities, population increased manifold, technology leaped forward, man became more aware, and above all this, the aspirations of people grew like never before. Urbanization, industrial growth, commercialisation and social and cultural impulses assumed a centripetal impact on city dwellers, and more and more people were drawn to the mountain regions. A few hill destinations became more sought after than others, but generally people owing to greater mobility and financial backing reached far and wide.

The rising aspirations of local people and the growing need to recreate among the visitors entered an alliance which manifested itself as 'tourism'. The initial euphoria proved to be fulfilling for both, and this equation continued till the shadows of overexploitation started looming over this ecologically sensitive region. The impact of 'mass tourism' was truly massive and the nature was at its receiving end.

This scenario brought out certain convulsions in the conscience of the system, and at this juncture tourism was appealed to be softer, such as ecotourism, nature tourism, green tourism etc. But very soon it became a jargon of terms and definitions, where one form of tourism begged to differ from other. If we critically examine Ecotourism as a way of sustainable development of the Himalayan region, there are certain implications in it:

1. Ecotourism, which is being hailed as recourse to the present crisis, remains more or less suspended at the philosophical plane. Neither the visitors know what to ask for nor the locals know what to offer, in this type of tourism. Since the products are obscured therefore the price to be determined is also difficult. This essentially bears an effect on the decision making or the choice of the tourist who is by and large price conscious.
2. The natives, in the hope of making big from tourist activities, somehow give up their traditional ways of livelihood. They found it lucrative to sell off their ancestral lands to outsiders and get cash in return. Before their subsistence was solely depended on these land holdings, so there was a compulsive need to maintain them for cultivation. Their cultural traits also seem to be a remix of indigenous and exogenous effects. Thus the traditional and natural heritage that ecotourism envisages is quite incoherent now.
3. There is no inventory of ecotourism products or destinations in a systematic way in the Himalayan region. As a result, again the haphazard growth is seen around where some ecotourism destinations are pulling more and more travellers, and in the process they are bound to cross over to mass tourism. What required for the low impact of tourism activities is to spread the tourist interest over this mountainous region in a natural way. That means tourists should be willing to accept and enjoy the natural leanings of any place they travel through.
4. Ecotourism, in principle, supports the small groups of travellers who believe in an ethical way of travelling to natural areas, but in fact more than the philosophical appeal, it is a kind of repulsion of overcrowding and commercialisation that people are looking for newer, less traversed and less commercialised destinations, even if that means limited infrastructure and informal tourist activities. In the Asian region of Himalayas where the overpopulation is a major concern, it may not take very long when so called ecotourism destinations, may be sucked in by mass tourist demands.
5. Ecotourism type of tourism poses the local com-

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munities as the stakeholders or players of tourism enterprise, with a fair share in formulating the policies and strategies, but the ground reality largely deviates from this. The locals of these mountain regions are not equipped to take policy decisions due to low education level and low awareness. The non-government organisations, consultants and business operators proxy such strategies and policy decisions in their own interests. Hence, the locals remain small time actors in the entire process, invariably managing the menial jobs.

6. The capacity building of the local stakeholders leaves the matter at the imaginary plane. Capacity building is not a one-time commitment; it also has a long gestation period before producing the result, which necessarily has to be supported by social and educational systems.
7. Ecotourism envisages the environmental regulations to maintain the integrity of such tourism. There is also provision of benchmarking or accreditation in some or the other form. It is a stark reality that such regulatory measures have not been effectively implemented in the cases of well established tourism destinations which have authorised bodies, then enforcing such measures in remote areas of Himalayan region remains a distant matter.

As resource managers and developers have lately enrolled Ecotourism as a viable option of sustainability in the Himalayan region, there are so many issues that stand unresolved. In the last two decades despite lot of efforts to translate this into reality, it still remains stranded at the stage of conceptualisation only. However, there are a few random cases which are being experimented with. Too many definitions, clarifications and modifications are attributed to it till day.

If one examines it from a neutral point, specially with reference to the Himalayan region, every tourism destination had some or the other time, passed through a stage when the landscape was highly natural in character, visitor frequency was low, visitor impact was less, infrastructure was not the dominant factor, tourist activities were modest and informal, the cultural and ethnic flavours were intact, environmental values were better guarded and the locals were benefited by

tourism along with their traditional pursuits. Thus, in mountain tourism there has been somewhat so similar to 'ecotourism' in the nascent days of tourism that it is like old wine with a new label.

Nevertheless, there is no need to disregard it, because if seen with careful measures, what all soft tourism like 'ecotourism' means that in any environmentally sensitive region like Himalayas, first, tourism should be contained within such a threshold of resource use that it should not go to a mass scale, secondly, the guiding principle should be such, that 'do not extract from nature more than it can regenerate', thirdly, respect the indigenous wisdom to sustain the resources, fourthly, use the technological advances to the advantage of man as well as nature, fifthly, the government agencies should act as facilitators of such soft tourism and finally, however rewarding tourism activity may be never give up the time tested traditional practices of subsistence. In natural regions like Himalayas, ecotourism would emerge as a viable way of sustainable development if it simply reinvigorates the traditional and conservative principles, and evolves new methods of applying them.

**by Kalpana Bhakuni, Associate Professor  
University of Delhi, India**

## **MASTER OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

University of British Columbia

The University of British Columbia, Faculty of Forestry is currently taking applications for our professional course-based graduate degree in Sustainable Forest Management (MSFM) for August 2014 start.

The Master of Sustainable Forest Management (MSFM) is a one year professional graduate degree that provides advanced study in natural resource stewardship. Intended for graduates from science-based Bachelor degree programs, the MSFM is accredited by the Canadian Forestry Accreditation Board (CFAB) to enable graduates to meet the core academic requirements for certification of the member agencies of the Canadian Federation of Professional Foresters Associations (CFPPA). This is a new path to becoming a Registered Professional Forester.

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We graduated our first cohort of students in May 2013 and all have found employment in the natural resource sector.



Applications for the MSFM program, August 2014 start, is open now and the final application deadline is February 28, 2014. We use a rolling admissions process in which applications are evaluated in the order which they are completed.

Brochure at:

[http://www.landscape-ecology.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/content/events/MSFM\\_2013\\_emailable\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.landscape-ecology.org/fileadmin/user_upload/content/events/MSFM_2013_emailable_brochure.pdf)

Please visit the MSFM website for more information <http://cbm.forestry.ubc.ca/master-of-sustainable-forest-management-msfm-degree/>.

by **Robin Poirier-Vasic (Forestry Graduate Admissions Coordinator)**

## THE 11TH EUROPEAN DRY GRASSLAND MEETING

European Steppes and Semi-natural Dry Grasslands: Ecology, Transformation and Restoration

The aim of the conference is to acquaint participants with the diversity of steppe and dry grassland vegetation in different ecological situations. The diversity of natural conditions within Russia is one reason for the diversity of dry grassland vegetation from the forest-steppe to the steppe zones. By the way, the conference will be held in European Russia. But intensive anthropogenic impact is the reason for landscape transformation. As a result, most parts of the steppe and meadow sites were plowed and transformed into arable land. Main questions: how to restore the natural landscape? What methods are successful in different situations? How to manage steppe vegetation?

At the conference you can become familiar with the peculiarities of steppe and dry grassland vegetation of both the European and Asian parts. This is an oppor-

tunity to meet scientists from different fields, and to learn more about the spatial and ecological diversity of dry grassland vegetation.

During the conference excursions, you will become acquainted with the vegetation of the northern part of the forest-steppe zone (Tula region, Kulikovo Field area) and also experience steppe restoration. During the post-conference tour, you will also become acquainted with the vegetation of the southern regions of Russia: forest-steppes of the Kursk region and the steppes of the Rostov region. The conference and post-conference tour will acquaint you with the cultural and historical heritage of Russia!



*Location:* The 11th European Dry Grassland Meeting will be held between 5-9th June 2014 at the Kulikovo Field area, located in the south-east part of the Tula region (European Russia). The post-conference tour will include visits to the Central Black Earth Reserve (Kursk region) and M. Sholokhov Museum-Reserve (Rostov region).

*Language:* English

*Registration* will be open from November 2013. For frequent updates and more details, please visit the conference homepage at <http://www.edgg.org>

We are looking forward to seeing you in Russia!

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee and EDGG **Elena Volkova** ([convallaria@mail.ru](mailto:convallaria@mail.ru)) & **Michael Vrahnakis** ([mvrahnak@teilar.gr](mailto:mvrahnak@teilar.gr))

### Bulletin Deadline

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PLEASE: Send your contributions to the Bulletin Editor Benjamin Burkhard  
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