

EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC DIVING PANEL  
(ESDP)

22nd Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Video Conference

MINUTES

		ACTIONS
1. Welcome and Present	PRESENT: J-P Féral (J-PF; France), W Plaiti (WP; Greece), M Sayer (MS; UK), A Norro (AN; Belgium), P Fischer (PF; Germany), J Leinikki (JL; Finland), M Asplund (MA; Sweden), P Balazy (PB; Poland), M Ponti (MP; Italy), H Hop (HH; Norway), D Badovinac (DB; Slovenia), Borut Mavrič (BM, Slovenia), D Paulo (DP; Portugal)	
2. Adoption of the agenda	Agreed – no changes were proposed.	
3. Approval of minutes from the 21st ESDP meeting	The revised minutes were discussed and accepted. The final version will be circulated.	
4. National updates	<p><b>Italy</b> – A new committee has been elected for the next 3 year. Massimo remains as the chair. Beginning to get national recognition for the Association. Have applied for observer status on the European Underwater Federation to make sure that scientific diving is properly recognised.</p> <p><b>Norway</b> – New diving rules. Want to make SCUBA illegal. Want to make scientific divers as work divers. This is seven weeks of training from new / four weeks for established scientific divers. All diving to Class A light work diving, must be surface supplied but SCUBA can be allowed in certain circumstances but to no deeper than 18 metres. Big problems continuing scientific diving as it currently is. In addition, there is two weeks for leading dives. The reason is aquaculture diving is responsible for one diving death per year. There are some concerns about the scientific diving in Svalbard and whether visitors from other countries need to adhere to Norwegian</p>	

rules. But seems that each country is responsible for their own diving.

The National Committee for Scientific Diving in Norway continues. There is less representation by the archaeologists.

**Belgium** – nothing new to report.

**Bulgaria** – nothing to report

**Finland** – Elected a new committee - JL remains as chair. Renewing the national qualification for scientific diving; to be accepted this summer. Also developing a code of safe practice and is being achieved nationally with the research stations in Finland.

**France** – All the 2011 regulations (specific decrees for scientific diving procedures) have still not been signed off. There is some promise by the Ministry of Labour that it will be signed off by the end of June 2019.

*Finally signed on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019.*

**Germany** – No major changes. Making minor revisions to their guidance rules. Update should be published by Sept/Oct 2019. More guidance on how to integrate divers transnationally. More clarification on which groups are permitted to work as scientific divers. Example is commercial divers using academic training for underwater inspections. Are working on a cross-over validation course (1-week) for AAUS divers diving on European projects (will get certified as ESD).

**Greece** – (bad Internet link) No major changes. Scientific diving continues to be excluded from the law and continue to follow institution rules. Scientific diving is covered and (possibly) insured as “fieldwork”.

**Slovenia** – For a year trying to get a committee for scientific diving in Slovenia with wide representation including from the ministry. Two different options were provided. Very little regulation covering scientific diving. The commission would be able to certify ESD and AESD at a central level. Trying to get scientific diving recognised as a specific diving sector to differentiate from commercial diving.

**Portugal** – No formal path to recognise the national committee as there are no regulations for diving in

	<p>Portugal. Scientific diving remains based on recreational diving rules and training. There are issues with non-recognition of ESD and AESD cards issued by Portugal. Discussed why this was.</p> <p><b>Sweden</b> – Since 2010 all certificates are provided by the military. Basic certificate – S30: Scuba down to 30m. Once a diver gets a S30 then can recognize scientific diving experience which then converts to a scientific diving certificate. Continue to recognise ESD/AESD.</p> <p><b>UK</b> – ESD and AESD remain basic competency levels for occupational scientific diving in the UK. SDSC continue to revise their Guidance Notes – presently at third draft level. Once accepted by the SDSC the notes will go to the national regulators for “recognition” (they cannot be approved legally but are recognised as industry best practice). National funding for scientific diving is no longer centralised but is on a per project basis. This has not been a good change so there is continued examination of how to manage the change.</p>	
<p>5. Poland application for ESDP membership</p>	<p>Starting to work toward a national committee. Legal status for scientific diving in Poland: it is recognisable in Poland but as long as the diving is within an academic institution then since 2014 SD does not have to follow the commercial diving regulations. At Sopot in April 2019 held the first meeting of a nascent committee. Plan is for a consortium of a number of seven institutes that use diving for science, archaeology and aquaria. Archaeology diving is more in line with commercial diving but they continue to be members of the consortium. The aim is to adopt the ESD and AESD competencies for self-regulation. Writing their own regulations / code of good practice. There is reciprocal recognition of ESD/AESD and recreational diving certificates (at least CMAS 2* level or higher). Medical exams: one-year medical based on the recreational standard. Still a need to develop a national qualification for SD and to keep this separate from recreational diving organisations.</p>	
<p>6. Consolidate and clarify EDSP membership categories</p>	<p>Proposal to revise the definitions of membership to make it simpler and more transparent.</p> <p>To go to two levels: 1 is Candidate member or observer; 2 is a member split in two ways: 2a as a member / 2b as a statutory member where there is legal status of the SD and NSDC as well as specific regulations for SD.</p>	

	<p>General agreement with some need to revise some of the category names. Member States which say they should be classified as possessing a specific legal state for SD and doesn't already did it are invited to produce all documents listed in the next section (#7) as well as any other elements helping for a complete information.</p>	
7. Certification and ESDP website	<p>ESD/AESD should only relate to the initial training. It can state the minimum standards but must also relate to the national level of training or competence.</p> <p>On the ESDP website, require:</p> <p>National SD Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- List of members</li> <li>- Statutes of the Committee</li> <li>- Links to legal texts</li> <li>- Nature and name of the SD certificate</li> <li>- Authority issuing SD certificate</li> </ul>	
8. Reports: joint training	<p>Report on the 4<sup>th</sup> joint training event – Sweden, Finland and Germany. Five weeks of practical training (with theory) with an additional two weeks of e-learning. Have to have at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Graduate / post-graduate</li> <li>- CMAS 2* equivalent</li> <li>- 30 hours underwater</li> <li>- CPR and rescue training</li> </ul> <p>Students get German scientific diving qualifications, and a Swedish S-30. The German qualification certifies the ESD equivalence.</p> <p>A question was raised on the recognition of such qualification in the country of origin of applicants coming from states where SD is recognized or not.</p>	
9. UNESCO's evaluation office	<p>1/ Interviewed J-PF about SD in Europe. What is ESDP Agreed ESDP's scientific diving definition Nothing about diving in the UNESCO training manual – but best practice not diving <i>per se</i>. 2/ UNESCO-CMAS Code of Practice for Scientific Diving – presented at Sopot. J-PF to contact UNESCO to ask what this status is.</p>	<p><b>J-PF:</b> to contact UNESCO to ask what the status of the UNESCO-CMAS Code of Practice for Scientific Diving</p>
10. Report: 5 <sup>th</sup> ECSD. Future meetings	<p>Over 70 participants from 13 countries and two and a half days of high-quality presentations. Congratulations to the organizing committee</p> <p>Future events are planned for Freiberg [DE] in 2020, and then Roscoff [FR] in 2021. ESDP are supporters of this</p>	

	initiative but do not own the series.	
11. Consultation documents	<p>Medical review: Ongoing with new input received. Being written up now. First draft will be available during the summer. To send to Slovenia for their input. What is the impact on GDPR with revealing medical information?</p> <p>Rebreathers: Workshop planned for 2020. Planned to get some experts in using rebreathers in scientific diving. Also has contact with some of the rebreather manufacturers. Trying to get some funding for the workshop plus trying to ensure there is good coverage across Europe. Aiming to develop a consensus report. To include some diving, including possible discovery dives. The goal is to settle the status of rebreather use in support of science across Europe.</p> <p>Some discussion as to how best to publish the consultation documents and whether they can contribute to a larger document that would result in a “scientific diving techniques reference manual”</p>	<b>PF:</b> To circulate the already written contributions of the “scientific diving techniques reference manual”
12. Co-ordination of a European network of scientific diving training courses.	<p>Because most SD training courses take place at marine stations can they be co-ordinated / standardised through the MARS network.</p> <p>ESDP could be the information hub for the courses. Could the SE-DE-FI joint training course be an initial template?</p> <p>Ideas need to develop further for the next meeting, to include the legal status of the training certification.</p>	<b>JL:</b> to develop a strategy for this network initiative taking into account the central role of ESDP.
13. ESDP involvement with project such as ScienceDIVER job platform	<p>Considered but decided not to become involved in the ScienceDIVER job platform. It was thought that it misrepresented the potential job opportunities in scientific diving.</p>	
14. Date of next face-to-face meeting	<p>Suggested for Paris</p> <p>Initial idea would be a room at National Museum of Natural History (5<sup>th</sup> district [arrondissement] of Paris, close to Gare de Lyon)</p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> October 2019</p>	