

Formal Methods Europe: report on activities in 2014

The FME Board June 2015

This report is a brief account of the association's activities between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014.

1. Board

Board members during the period were John Fitzgerald (up to the AGM, Chair), Ana Cavalcanti (after the AGM, Chair), Lars-Henrik Eriksson (Secretary), Erik de Vink (Treasurer), Stefania Gnesi (Symposia and Deputy Chair) and Bernhard Aichernig (Publications).

2. Membership

On 31 December 2013 the association had 236 members in total, an increase of 24 from the previous year. 157 members (67%) come from academic institutions, 68 (29%) from commercial institutions and 11 members (5%) have no affiliation or come from other institutions. There has been a slight increase from the previous year in the ratio of academic members to other/commercial members. Roughly 72% of the members are based in Europe. Only a small part of the membership (estimated at less than 10%) is actively involved in FME activities.

3. Symposia

FM'14

FM'14 was organised by the National University of Singapore during May 12-16. Jin Song Dong (National University of Singapore) was General Chair. Cliff Jones (Newcastle University), Pekka Pihlajasaari (Data Abstraction (Pty) Ltd., South Africa) and Jun Sun (Singapore University of Technology) were Programme Committee co-chairs.

FM'15

FM'15 is organised by the University of Oslo. The symposium will be held June 22-26. Einar Broch Johnsen (University of Oslo) is General Chair. Frank de Boer (CWI) and Nikolaj Bjørner (Microsoft Research) are Programme Committee co-chairs.

FM'16/17

A call was made for hosting the 21st FM Symposium, to be held in autumn 2016 or spring 2017.

4. Publications

The FME website, hosted by TU Graz and maintained by Bernhard Aichernig, and the FME mailing lists, maintained by Lars-Henrik Eriksson continue to be the main means of reporting information about FME.

FME has taken an initiative to coordinate dates of major FM events and to maintain a list of such events including important dates. The list is available on the FME web site.

Since autumn 2014, the FME board has provisionally changed the policy for event announcements on FME mailing lists. Previously, only announcements for events affiliated with or sponsored by FME were permitted. Now any major established event related to formal methods may use the mailing lists for announcements. This policy will be reviewed in 2015.

FME also has a presence on the LinkedIn web site.

5. Grants and sponsorships

During 2014, FME has sponsored several meetings and activities – ABZ 2014, AVOCS 2014, FormaliSE 2014 and PSI 2014. Refer to the Financial Report for details.

6. Special Interest Groups

FME currently has no Special Interest Groups.

7. Industry-Research Collaboration

FME has a Memorandum of Understanding with FMICS to collaborate in holding an annual joint industry-focussed event.

There is also a Memorandum of Understanding between FME and the British Computer Society Specialist Group on Formal Aspects of Computing Science (BCS-FACS) on holding an annual joint seminar.

8. Meetings

Two meetings were held in 2014. The AGM was held in Newcastle (UK) on 13 February. Only 9 members participated due to a severe storm over the British Isles which made travel difficult. A business meeting was held during FM'14 in Singapore on May 16. 24 members participated in that meeting.

Additionally, the Board held board meetings using Skype.

9. Awards

After consultation with the membership, the Board decided to introduce a FME Fellowship Award to reward scientific breakthroughs and pioneering work that have made a difference to the world through advances in formal methods. The award will be given at every other Symposium beginning with FM'15.