

# **Formal Methods Europe: Management Report for 2023**

## **The FME Board June 2024**

This report is a brief account of the association's activities between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023.

### **1. Board**

Board members during the period were Ana Cavalcanti (Chair), Lars-Henrik Eriksson (Secretary), Nico Plat (Treasurer), Maurice Ter Beek (Symposia and Deputy Chair), Einar Broch Johnsen (Communications).

### **2. Membership**

On 31 December 2023 the association had 454 members in total, an increase of 14 from the previous year.

352 members (78%) come from academic institutions, 71 (16%) from commercial institutions and 32 members (7%) have no affiliation or come from other institutions (e.g. non-academic research institutes). The proportion of commercial members is constant compared to the year before, but shows a slightly decreasing trend over time. Roughly 72% of the members are based in Europe. Only a small part of the membership (estimated at 10%) is actively involved in FME activities.

103 of the members have a suspended status because of unknown contact details. (They could not be reached for a membership details update request in 2016.) With the new statutes adopted during 2023 (see section 10 below), these memberships could be terminated.

### **3. Symposia/Conferences**

#### *FormaliSE*

FormaliSE was held in Melbourne, Australia, on May 14-15 in conjunction with ICSE 2023. The General Chairs were Stefania Gnesi (CNR-ISTI) and Nico Plat (Thanos). Alessio Ferrari (CNR-ISTI) was Artifact Chair and Giovanna Broccia (CNR-ISTI) was Web and Publicity Chair. The PC chairs were Marie-Christine Jakobs (Technical University of Darmstadt) and Toby Murray (University of Melbourne). Annabelle Mciver (Macquarie University) and Paola Spoletini (Kennesaw State University) were Keynote Speakers. 14 papers were accepted out of 32 submissions.

#### *FM Symposium*

The 25th International Symposium on Formal Methods was held at the University of Lübeck, Germany, on March 6th-10th. This was the first physical symposium after the pandemic and was a success. The event had 204 attendees from 25 countries.

A total of 28 out of 95 submitted papers were accepted. The number of submissions were lower than expected and less than the average of the previous decade. There are indications that this has happened to several Formal Methods-related events.

It was the first time that double-blind reviewing was used. Also, 4 journal-first papers and 8 industry day papers were presented. There were 3 workshops and 4 tutorials accepted. For the first time the symposium included an Artifact Evaluation.

The General Chair was Martin Leucker (University of Lübeck) and the Local Organisation Chair was Martin Mildner (University of Lübeck). The PC chairs were

Joost-Pieter Katoen (RWTH Aachen University) and Marscha Chechik (University of Toronto). The keynote speakers were Jeanette Wing (Columbia University), Laura Kovács (Vienna University of Technology), Harald Ruess (Fortiss GmbH) and Nils Jansen (Radboud University Nijmegen). See below about the Lucas award.

#### **4. Publications**

The FME website was maintained by Einar Broch Johnsen. The FME mailing lists were maintained by Lars-Henrik Eriksson and hosted by Uppsala University

FME maintains a list of FM events including important dates. The list is available on the FME web site.

The FME events@fmeurope.org e-mailing list is available for announcements related to established conferences in the FM area as well as to events organised or sponsored by FME and for positions related to FM.

FME also has a presence on the LinkedIn web site and has a YouTube channel.

#### **5. Grants and sponsorships**

Sponsorships were granted to FMAS, ICTAC and SBMF during 2023.

#### **6. Standing Committees**

FME currently has five standing committees: the Awards Committee (contact: Augusto Sampaio), the Book Review Committee (contact: Matteo Rossi), the Communications Committee (contact: Einar Broch Johnsen), the Industry Committee (contact: Tim Willemse), and the Teaching Committee (contact: Luigia Petre).

#### **7. Industry-Research Collaboration**

FME has a Memorandum of Understanding with FMICS to collaborate in holding an annual joint industry-focused 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 2023. One during the FM Symposium in Lübeck and a second one as an online meeting on June 15. The second meeting was also the AGM.

Additionally, the Board held 5 online board meetings.

#### **9. Awards**

At the FM Symposium in Lübeck, Sandrine Blazy, Zaynah Dargaye and Xavier Leroy received the Peter Lucas Award for their highly influential paper "Formal Verification of a C Compiler Front-End" presented at the FM'06 Symposium.

#### **10. Other activities**

The association adopted new statutes in 2023. The statutes are aligned with new legislation for associations in the Netherlands, where FME is registered. The statutes

were also updated to better support how the association operates today as the old statutes had been unchanged since the association was founded in 1998. In particular the greatly increased number of members have made changes in management necessary.

The association made efforts to contribute to the revised ACM curriculum CS2023, in order to get increase prominence for Formal Methods.

The association has signed an agreement with Springer for Open Access of Symposia proceedings beginning with FM'24.

Signed,

Ana Cavalcanti

Einar Broch Johnsen

Lars-Henrik Eriksson

Nico Plat

Maurice ter Beek