



**Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 62th meeting
Held at the St. Raphael Resort Hotel, Limassol, Cyprus
10 November 2016
www.fmeurope.org**

Present at the meeting were:

FME members:

- Andrew Butterfield [Trinity College Dublin]
- Ana Cavalcanti (Chair) [U. York]
- Erik de Vink [TU Eindhoven]
- Catherine Dubois [ENSIIE]
- Lars-Henrik Eriksson (Secretary) [Uppsala U.]
- Alessandro Fantechi [U. Firenze]
- John Fitzgerald [Newcastle U.]
- Marie-Claude Gaudel [U. Paris-Sud]
- Stefania Gnesi [CNR-ISTI]
- Ian Hayes [U. Queensland]
- Einar Broch Johnsen [U. Oslo]
- Randolph Johnson [Arundel System Logic]
- Cliff Jones [U. Newcastle]
- Peter Gorm Larsen [Aarhus U.]
- Tiziana Margaria [Lero, U. Limerick]
- Dominique Mery [LORIA, U. Lorraine]
- Matteo Rossi [Politecnico di Milano]
- Marces Verhoef [European Space Agency]
- Jim Woodcock [U. York]

Others:

- Pedro Antonino [U. Oxford]
- José Campos [U. Minho]
- Connie Heitmeyer [U.S. Naval Research Laboratory]
- Zhiming Liu [Southwest U., China]
- Anna Philippou [U. Cyprus]
- Cristina Seceleanu [Mälardalen U. College]
- Viktor Vafeiadis [Max Planck Institute for Software Systems]
- Andrzej Wasowski [IT U. Copenhagen]
- Frank Zeyda [U. York]

Apologies had been received from: Stefan Gruner, Dino Mandrioli, Nico Plat, Eerke Boiten, Maurice ter Beek, Bruce Watson.

1 Welcome and agree upon agenda

Ana Cavalcanti welcomed the members present. The agenda was agreed upon.

2 Invitation to join FME

Lars-Henrik Eriksson invited all non-members present to join FME.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting and review of actions

The minutes of the Eindhoven meeting were approved.

Action 56/2: Lars-Henrik Eriksson to organise a consultation with the membership on FME directions.

Done. See agenda item 9. Action closed.

Action 61/1: Lars-Henrik Eriksson to put an item on the agenda of the coming Cyprus FME meeting in questioning meeting participants what reports etc. about choosing a formal methods they know.

Done. See agenda item 12. Action closed.

Action 61/2: Lars-Henrik Eriksson to make a standing agenda item to ask non-members present to join FME.

Done. See agenda item 2. Action closed.

Action 61/3: Nico Plat to check if Dutch law really requires new members to submit a signed written membership request.

Done. No written membership request is necessary. Action closed.

Action 61/4: Matteo Rossi to organise the book review committee.

Done. See agenda item 10. Action closed.

Action 61/5: Erik de Vink to approach Marco Bernardo about a Memorandum of Understanding with the SFM school to allow them the use of FME's publication channels.

In progress. Action continues.

Action 61/6: Erik de Vink to investigate the consequences of offering FME members a discount on the FM'18 registration fee.

In progress. Action continues.

Action 61/7: Ana Cavalcanti and Lars-Henrik Eriksson to contact members of the SE community about FME through FormaliSE.

In progress. Action continues.

4 Report on FM'2016

Anna Philippou and John Fitzgerald reported on FM'2016 and made some recommendations for the future. There was a record number of submissions (162). See the attached presentation for details.

New action 62/1: The Board to revise the Symposium Guidelines considering the recommendations given by the FM'2016 Chairs.

5 Status report on FM'2018

Ana Cavalcanti reported on the plans of organising FM'2018 as part of the Federated Logic Conference (FLoC) in Oxford.

6 FM World Congress 2019

Ana Cavalcanti reported on the plans to organise FM'2019 as a "World Congress" similar to the Toulouse World Congress in 1999 and the Eindhoven FMWEEK in 2009. Matteo Rossi pointed out that the ACM SIGSOFT Symposium on the Foundations of Software Engineering will be held in Europe that year and that there could be a synergy.

New action 62/2: Stefania Gnesi to identify any possible collaboration in the organisation of FSE and FM in 2019.

7 FormaliSE 2016

Stefania Gnesi reported that the 4th FormaliSE workshop was a success with 17 submissions (7 accepted). An proposal has been sent to arrange a FormaliSE workshop also at the next ICSE.

8 Membership address update

Lars-Henrik Eriksson reported that the online membership address update and consultation system was launched on September 7. By October 28, about half the membership (115 out of 243) had updated or confirmed their address details. 2 members used the opportunity to cancel their membership. 1 member was found to be deceased. 35 members had invalid e-mail addresses and could not be reached. (Originally there were 71 members with invalid addresses, but we were able to find correct addresses for about half of them.) 90 members had not responded, including several who are known to be active members.

9 Membership consultation

Ana Cavalcanti reported on the first analysis of the replies to the online membership consultation. By October 28 there had been comments from 50 members (out of 243). See the attached presentation for details. The board will continue working with the result of the consultation.

10 Book review committee

Matteo Rossi reported on the formation of the FME Book Review Committee. Present members are Annabelle Mclver, Constance Heitmeyer, Einar Broch Johnsen, Matteo Rossi, Peter Gorm Larsen and Wan Fokkink. The committee can be reached using the e-mail address bookreview@fmeurope.org. See attached presentation for details.

New action 62/3: Matteo Rossi to start book reviews in January.

New action 62/4: Lars-Henrik Eriksson to ensure that the Book Review Committee members are or become FME members.

11 LNCS subline on Formal Methods

Ana Cavalcanti reported that the Formal Methods subline of LNCS has been officially launched. The FM'2016 proceedings is the first volume.

12 Reports on choosing a formal method – see action 61/1

Lars-Henrik Eriksson reported on the Board's plans to update the information on the FME web site about "choosing a formal method" and replace the present web page with links to relevant papers and reports. Members were encouraged to send suggestions of such papers and reports to the Board.

13 Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting (AGM) is planned to be held in conjunction with a joint BCS-FME event in London after ETAPS (May or late April).

14 Other Business

There was no other business.

Summary of open actions

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Action 61/6: Erik de Vink to investigate the consequences of offering FME members a discount on the FM'18 registration fee.

Action 61/7: Ana Cavalcanti and Lars-Henrik Eriksson to contact members of the SE community about FME through FormaliSE.

Action 62/1: The Board to revise the Symposium Guidelines considering the recommendations given by the FM'16 Chairs.

Action 62/2: Stefania Gnesi to identify any possible collaboration in the organisation of FSE and FM in 2019.

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FM | 2016

FM 2016 Chairs' Report

Anna Philippou

General chair

John S. Fitzgerald

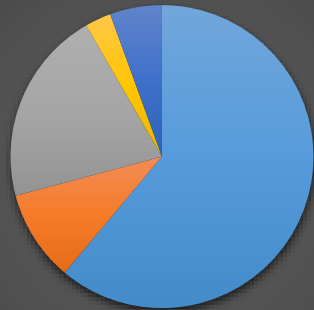
Stefania Gnesi

Constance L. Heitmeyer

PC Chairs

Where are we from?

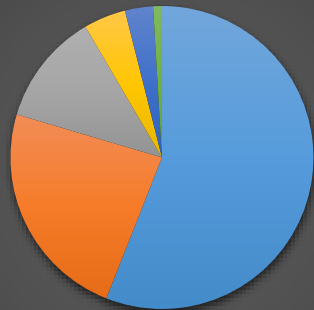
PC Members



■ Europe ■ Asia ■ N. America
■ South America ■ Australia/NZ ■ Africa

Personal networks are perhaps more important than geography

Submitting Authors

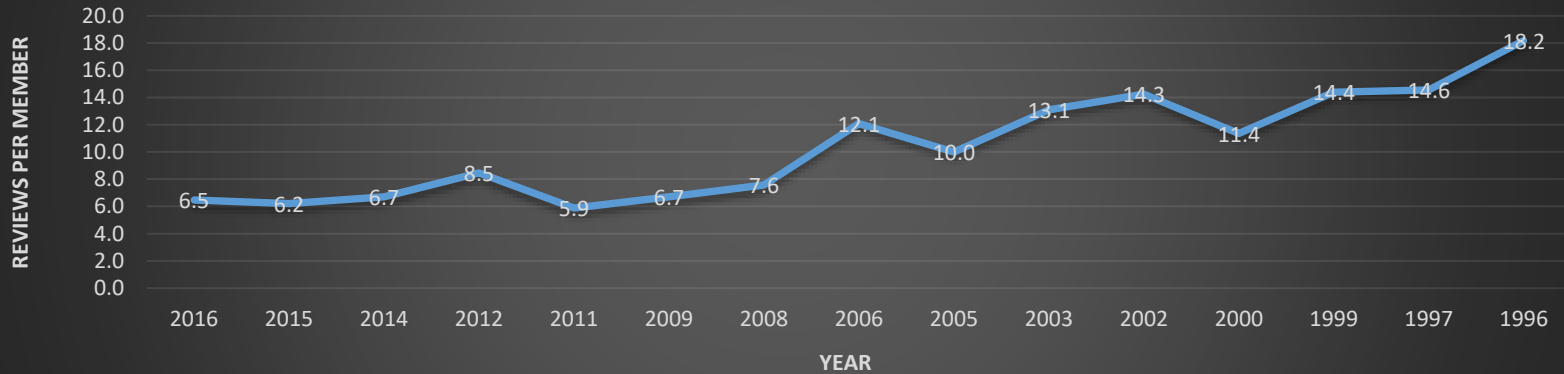


■ Europe ■ Asia ■ N. America
■ South America ■ Australia/NZ ■ Africa

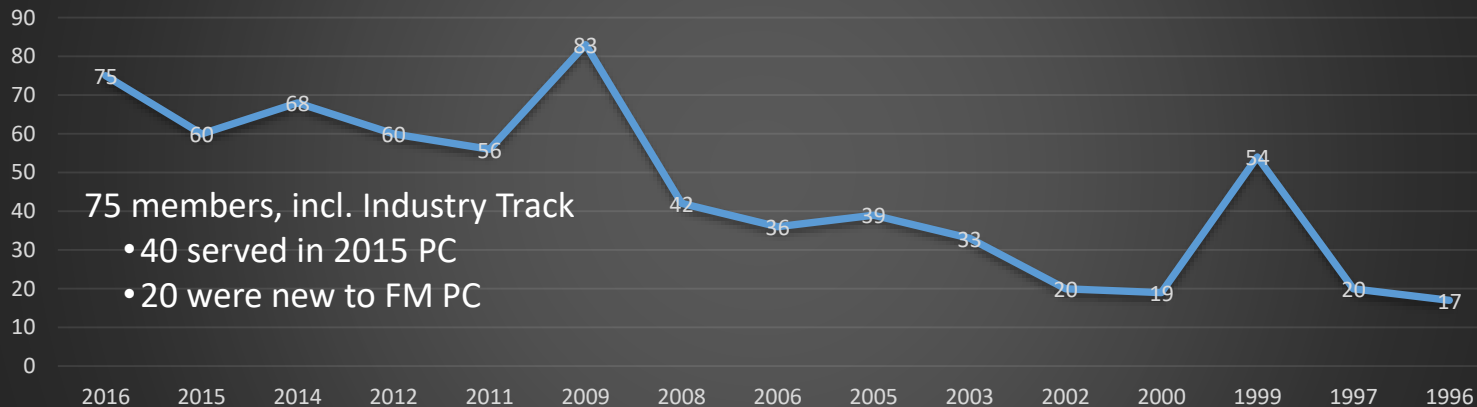
Impressive number of submissions from Asia

Thank you, PC!

Avg. Reviews per PC Member

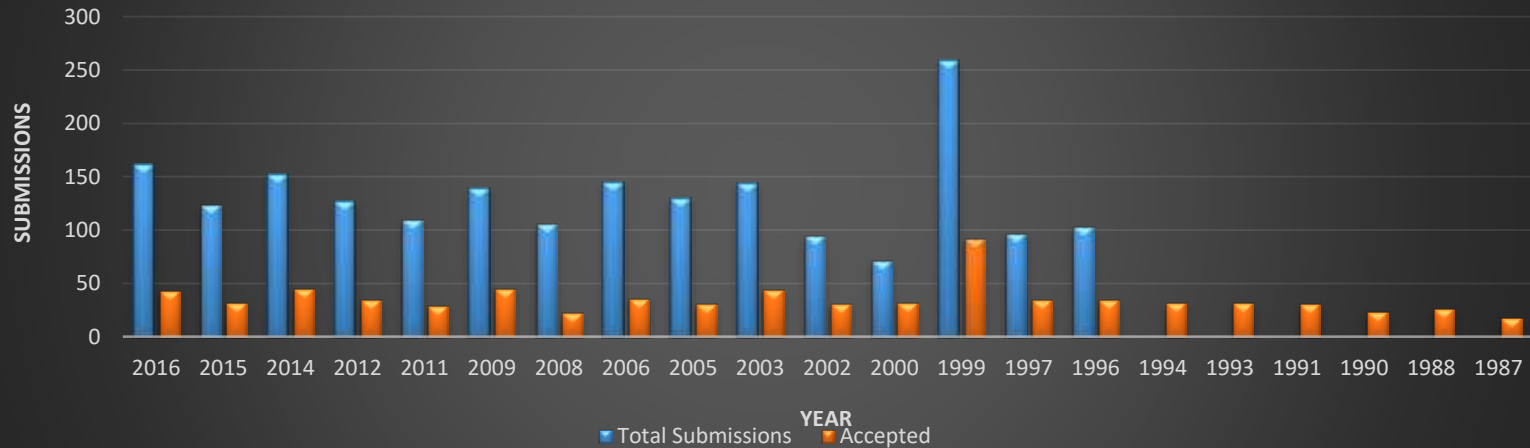


PC Size since 1996



Thank you, Authors!

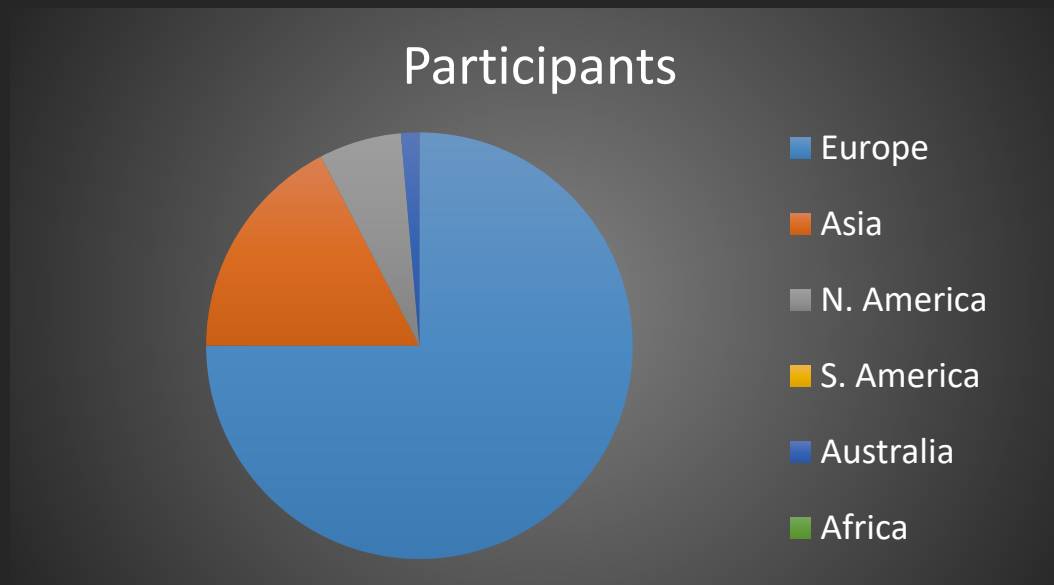
Submissions to VDM/FME Symposia



Acceptance (%)



Thank you, Participants!



Registration Numbers

- Number of participants: 145 (133 paying participants)
- Main Conference participants:
 - 116 (100 regular + 16 students)
 - Conference only: 54 regular + 5 students
 - Conference and satellite events: 46 regular + 11 students
- Satellite events only: 17
 - 9 regular + 8 students

Finances

- Generally budget followed through
- Unexpected costs:
 - Proceedings (500 Euro aprox)
 - Easychair license (190 GBP)
- Still expect to be within budget (and hopefully manage to have some surplus)

Satellite Events

- Workshops: all 6 proposal were accepted. 3 workshops were cancelled by the workshop organizers
- Tutorials: 8 out of 9 proposal were selected. 3 were cancelled by the FM 2016 organizing committee

Sponsors

- Springer
- DiffBlue
- Cyprus Tourism Organization
- University of Cyprus

Comments

1. PC Chairs: Wonderful support from Anna and the OC team. Thank you!
2. We were glad to have three PC Chairs, and recommend this as a future norm, or consider two general and two PC chairs.
3. We opted for purely electronic proceedings, but are aware that this might divide opinion. It had a positive impact on cost and schedule. We would recommend consideration of this for the future.
4. We did not have a rebuttal phase, mainly because of timing (summer “in the way”). We do not yet see a strong case for holding a rebuttal phase.

Comments

5. Reviewing standards were adequate, but we feel FM should set the standard and have a culture of improvement ...
 - Make our conference standards explicit: define conflict of interest, specify the minimum content of reviews, quality and style
 - Require reviewers (PC and subreviewers) to “sign up” to this on accepting a review role
6. Consider including a “New Ideas and Emerging Results” track (cf. ICSE)
 - Fully reviewed, not a second-class track
 - Papers can challenge received wisdom, question current research directions, combine topics in new ways, offer bold visions.
 - Papers must be based on clear technical insights and good reviews of the state of the art, but would require comprehensive validation of results.
7. Short paper length – some authors felt it was too short. However, we do not offer a strong opinion on this ourselves.
8. Consider moving the main symposium to Tuesday-Thursday to reduce risks of Friday afternoon fall-off.

Comments

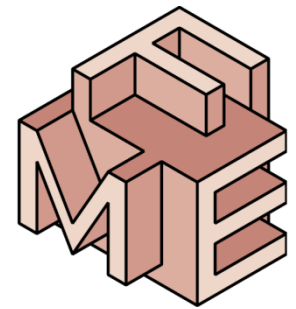
9. Some authors exceeded their page limits without prior consent in the final version. Enforce a strict protocol in future.

10. EasyChair posed some new challenges:

- Licensing costs
- Chairs need expertise in setting up for a multi-track event than may have been the case previously
- We did not feel we received good support for the license fee. However, we would stop short of suggesting the use of any competitor systems at the moment, however!

11. Workshop/Tutorial key dates – we recommend taking care to select dates for submission, decision, call and assessment of participation levels, in order to maximise participation.

FME Address Update and Membership Consultation




FORMAL METHODS EUROPE

CYPRUS, NOVEMBER 2016

FME Board: Ana Cavalcanti
Erik de Vink
Lars-Henrik Eriksson
Stefania Gnesi
Einar Johnsen

FME Address Update



- Membership is free of charge – no natural administrative contact between members and the board.
- Membership details much out of date.
- Update request sent to all known e-mail addresses.

FME Address Update



- 244 names in membership database
- 122 confirmed/updated
- 82 no action
- 35 e-mail failures remaining
- 1 deceased
- 3 cancelled memberships
- 1 duplicated person

FME Membership Consultation



- Questions:
- What should the goals of FME be?
- What other activities should we pursue to achieve these goals?
- How can you contribute?
- Any other message you wish to send to the board?

What should the goals of FME be? (Summary)



- further and promote teaching, research, development and application of Formal Methods
- worldwide reach

What other activities should we pursue to achieves these goals? (Summary)



- build connections with other events
- promote teaching of Formal Methods as essential part of university curricula
- professional association
- tutorial for industry
- interest groups
- provide case studies and best practices
- support start up
- promote verification challenges
- support for early-career professionals

Book Review Committee

FME Business Meeting
November 10th, 2016



Goal

- provide to the FM community high-quality reviews of books on topics of interest to the community
- reviews highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the book, to help researchers who are looking for reference texts in their areas of interest

Committee

- Wan Fokkink (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, NL)
- Constance Heitmeyer (Naval Research Laboratory, US)
- Einar Broch Johnsen (University of Oslo, NO)
- Peter Gorm Larsen (Aarhus University, DK)
- Annabelle McIver (Macquarie University, AUS)
- Matteo Rossi (Politecnico di Milano, IT)

- bookreview@fmeurope.org

Procedures

- BRC members select books of interest, then ask esteemed colleagues to review them (or review them themselves)
- reviews are not anonymous
- published on FME website, but also possibly on Formal Aspects of Computing journal

- Call for reviewers!