

Minutes of the 36th General Assembly of ACIDE

28 August 2020 via zoom –From 17:05 to 17:53

Chairwoman of the meeting: Ms Zerrin Celebi Ghavami *ad interim*

Minutes: Ms Zerrin Celebi Ghavami

Because of COVID-19, the assembly was held by videoconference. As ACIDE's president recently left EPFL, Zerrin chaired the meeting. She opened it, welcomed the assembly and recalled the agenda:

- 1 *Approval of the minutes of the general meeting 2019*
- 2 *A new name for the Association*
- 3 *Change in the statutes of the association*
- 4 *Committee report and planning 2020*
- 5 *Activity Report of ACIDE-ComDOC*
- 6 *Activity Report of ACIDE-PostDOC*
- 7 *Activity report of International Spouses - Aysen Nur Tegin*
- 8 *Delegates' activity reports*
- 9 *Financial reports*
- 10 *Approval of activity reports, accounts and budget*
- 11 *Elections*
- 12 *Miscellaneous and individual proposals*
- 13 *APPENDIX*

The agenda was accepted without change.

1 Approval of the minutes of the general meeting 2019

The minutes of the 2019 General Assembly were unanimously approved, with thanks to the author, Zerrin Celebi Ghavami. No reading was requested.

2 A new name for the Association

Last year, the general assembly approved the change of name of the association, because the old name was no longer explicit. Vice-President for Education, Prof. P. Vanderghynst approved the new name but ACIDE should also have the approval of the General Secretary of EPFL. This will be done without any delay.



The new name of the association will be: *EPFL Scientist Association*

3 Change in the statutes of the association

- Art. 16: Standing commissions – ACIDE ComDoc + ACIDE PostDoc + ACIDE IS
- Art. 21: Composition of the committee

As the details of the articles had not been sent with the invitation to the General Meeting, the vote could not take place. The items were submitted again this year.

Vote: Unanimously approved

4 Committee report and planning 2020

- HR welcome sessions

ACIDE participated to 5 HR welcome sessions. These participations were an opportunity to recruit new members.

- Academic Titles awarded in 2019

It was awarded in 2019, 3 academic titles of Researcher and Teaching Associates, 2 academic titles of Senior Scientist and 4 academic titles of Adjunct Professors.



The award of academic titles to scientific staff, during the last fourteen years in the different schools, is summarized in tables 1, 2 and 3 in the appendix.

- Welcome sessions

Welcome sessions take place on a weekly basis (Wednesday). In 2019, more than 700 people came. The association's sessions were more successful than the EPFL's sessions.

- Health insurance

Health insurance & Household/Third party liability insurance, car insurance: advices continued in 2019.

- Advices to members

The advice to members remained an important and needful role of the association in general and of Zerrin in particular. The emails sent during the containment period reflected the great concern of the researchers for their work in the laboratory and their situation regarding the virus.

- Legal advice with Acilex

A partnership with UNIL and Acilex, the Association of PhD and Post-doc of law students: 5 people asked for advice.

- Evolution of news members

During the past year, the number of members decreased and at the end of December 2019, the association had 667 members (compared to 695 at the end of 2018). There were several reasons for this:

- Due to a lack of support from the EPFL's Direction, ACIDE did not organise the traditional festive events and missed several opportunities to recruit members.
- Researchers left EPFL when the laboratory closed at the time of their professor's retirement.
- The core group that launched the association 36 years ago is also reaching retirement age.
- ACIDE has been recruiting fewer PhD students since the creation of Polydoc association. Few years ago, 80% of members were PhD students; today, they are only 55%. The rest of the members are senior scientists.

- Next year planning
 - Continuation of Welcome sessions
 - Contact with ActionUni
 - Contact with ACIDUL: lots of points remain to discuss
 - Contact with University of Neuchâtel in order to meet and discuss similar concerns
 - French courses for IS: always so successful. The new session is coming, but it's not easy to book classroom at EPFL. Maybe the session will be held by videoconference.
 - Holiday party 2020 IS, usually very successful. Let's hope it can take place.
 - Contact with the General Secretary at EPFL in order to fix the new name of the association.
 - Contact with the new HR Manager that started on April 1st. Zerrin sent her 2 emails, but it could be great to meet her in person.

5 Activity Report of ACIDE-ComDOC

Only one social event in 2019: BBQ-Innovation Park at the end of April 2019

Because of the lack of sponsors, it was neither possible to visit CERN nor to organise the students' ball in 2019.

6 Activity Report of ACIDE-PostDOC

- Welcome day postdocs in March 2019
- Meeting with EPFL start-up

7 Activity report of International Spouses - Aysen Nur Tegin

Anastasia, Marta and Cherise, left IS administration in September 2018 and Aysen, Cecilia and Zeynep joined the IS board.

○ *Weekly and monthly activities*

- Coffee & Chat: Every Tuesday afternoon; at Epicure @ EPFL
- January : Ice skating at Malley
- February : Trip to Vevey
- March : Tobogganing in Leysin
- April : Walk to the Tulip festival in Morges
- May : Vaud Wine Cellars Open Day (Caves Ouvertes Vaud)
- June : Visit of « la Clinique de la Source », Lausanne
- September : Trip to Geneva
- November : Montreux Christmas Market
- December : International Holiday Party, Friday, December 7th at the Cafeteria ELA-EPFL

○ *ACIDE offers for IS*

French conversation classes for International Spouses: Three courses of two sessions per week took place.

- A1 level + A1+ level, A2 level + B1 level: from January to April 2019, 62 students
- A1 level + A2 level + B1 level: from April to July 2019, 58 students
- A1 level + A2 level + B1 level: from September to December 2019, 42 students

IDCN membership: various job networking events & Health insurance & Household/Third party liability insurance, car insurance for IS members.

8 Delegates' activity reports

- Disciplinary Commission (J.-M. Fürbringer et A. Magrez)

The Disciplinary Commission did not deal with any cases in 2019.

- Ethics Commission (A. Magrez)

The Ethics Commission did not meet in 2019.

- Social and scholarships commission (O. Lévêque)

The Social commission met at the beginning of each semester to decide on the allocation of scholarships to the students in need. Around 100 scholarships were allocated in 2019.

- ActionUni (Chr. Mörtl, since 27.5.2020)

ActionUni is the umbrella organization of ACID. It represents young researchers as well as associations of non-teaching academic staff of Swiss cantonal universities, Federal institutes of technology, Swiss universities of applied sciences and Swiss universities of teacher education, both nationally and internationally. ActionUni aims to improve academic careers and to coordinate the activities of Swiss associations of non-teaching academic staff.

- Meeting between ACIDE representatives and Alexey Evstratov (Member of the committee) on the university.now initiative of actionuni
- ACIDE's participation in action research.uni on the impact of COVID19 on the activities of the CI

- Sports Commission (M. Bachmayer)

No information

- Catering Commission (E. Clédat)

It's about food and restaurants at EPFL. A new manager for all restaurants on the campus started recently. He would like to establish that all EPFL restaurants, cafeterias and food trucks offer healthier and more environmentally friendly food. PhD students and post-doc tend to agree with this trend.

Due to COVID-19, the last commission was cancelled, but instead, the Commission addressed an online form. Basically, ACIDE agreed with all points except one:

- The price of the meal will be reduced for the students, but there is no mention of PhD and Post-doc. According to Emmanuel, the price will increase for PhD: + 2 CHF for PhD as well as for the rest of the consumers.

The next meeting is scheduled in November, but Emmanuel will leave the campus in October. He is looking for a volunteer to join the commission.



For more details about the commissions, read the activity report available on line

9 Financial reports

- Salaries and wages

In addition to its General Secretary, four auxiliaries worked for the association, namely:

- an accountant
- an administrative assistant
- 3 French teacher for ACIDE-IS courses (only one teacher in previous year)
- a student assistant for the maintenance of the website.

- 2019 Accounting Balance Sheet

In 2019, sponsors have sharply reduced their financial support. By the way, ACIDE did not have any financial support from the EPFL management in 2019. Added to that, the new members did not fill the gaps left by members who retire or leave EPFL after the closure of their research unit.

Thanks to everyone's efforts and rigorous management of the association's funds, ACIDE was able to end the year with a modest loss of 519.70 CHF.

- 2020 Budget

2020 Budget: 65'000 CHF belonging from membership fees (30%) and social activities (70%). It's a little less than last year because of COVID. In comparison, the budget 4 years ago was 3 times larger.

Without the EPFL's participation, the association could not survive. Therefore, the committee entered into discussions with the EPFL Management. After examining its accounts, the Management decided to grant a subsidy of 10'000 CHF provided that this money would finance projects of general interest. The committee thought about which projects to submit.



Feel free to share your own ideas or projects. The committee will review any proposal and submit a list of projects to the executive.

10 Approval of activity reports, accounts and budget

The accounts have been controlled and the entries corresponded to the accounting documents submitted. The auditors recommended to the assembly to approve the accounts of the association and grant discharge to the committee and its treasurer.

The assembly approved the 2019 Activity report, the 2019 Accounting balance sheet and the 2020 budget.

Vote: 9; in favour: 8; against: 0; abstention: 1

11 Elections

- Committee
 - ☒ Firat Altay (member)
 - ☒ Utku Norman (member)
 - ☒ Victor Boureau (Post-doct, candidate)
 - ☒ Christian Mörtl (PhD, candidate)
 - ☒ Ekin Kizilkan (PhD, candidate)
- ACIDE ComDOC
 - ☒ Firat Altay (PhD, candidate)
- ACIDE PostDOC
 - ☒ vacant
- ACIDE's delegates in the EPFL's commissions
 - Ethics ☒ Arnaud Magrez
 - Disciplinary ☒ Jean-Marie Fürbringer
 - Social and scholarship ☒ Olivier Lévêque
 - Sports ☒ Marie Bachmayer
 - Catering ☒ vacant
- Auditors
 - ☒ Diego Paez and Ugur Tegin
- ACTIONUNI
 - ☒ Christian Mörtl

Vote: 9; in favour: 8; against: 0; abstention: 1

Volunteers are welcome throughout the year!

- *Representatives of the CI to the EPFL Assembly and School Councils*

The list of representatives is available on line:

<http://acide.epfl.ch/about-us/ci-representatives/>



A legislature lasts 2 years. Members will be re-elected in September 2020. There are still vacancies to be filled:

- ENAC: 1 vacant position
- STI : 4 vacant positions
- IC: 3 vacant positions
- CDM: 2 vacant positions

If you would like to become a representative of the EPFL Assembly or a School Councils or if you know someone who would like to become a member, please contact acide@epfl.ch!

12 Miscellaneous and individual proposals

As the floor was not requested, Zerrin thanked the members of the committee for their work and commitment, resigning members especially our president Christophe Vaillant. She thanked everybody for coming. Finally, she thanked Fabienne Allaire, her faithful administrative assistant during these last 8 years, who left EPFL for a well-deserved early retirement, as they said.

ACIDE, 28 September 2020

Zerrin Celebi Ghavami

General Secretary of ACIDE

13 APPENDIX

Table 1 : Academic titles awarded since 2005 - **Senior Scientist**

School	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SB	0	2	1	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
ENAC	0	0	3	2	3	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	1
STI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IC	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
CdM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CdH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total/year	0	4	4	4	5	0	2	5	1	0	3	2	0	2	3
Total Titles	35														

Table 2 : Academic titles awarded since 2005 - **Research and Teaching Associate**

School	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SB	10	3	3	8	7	3	3	4	1	4	4	3	1	5	1
ENAC	3	0	2	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
STI	2	4	1	2	6	3	6	5	2	3	1	2	0	0	0
IC	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
SV	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	4	4	0	1	0	0
CdM	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CdH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total/year	15	7	6	16	18	8	9	13	4	12	12	6	2	5	2
Total Titles	135														

Table 3: Academic titles awarded since 2005 – **Adjunct Professor**

School	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
SB	8	2	1	1	0	2	3	0	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
ENAC	6	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STI	4	1	2	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1
IC	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
SV	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	2
CdM	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
CdH	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total/year	20	4	3	10	7	3	4	2	5	5	4	2	3	5	4
Total Titles	81														