

Minutes of the 37th General Assembly of ACIDE

5 October 2021 - Room CM012 at EPFL

Chairman of the meeting: Christian Mörtl

Christian Mörtl opened the meeting, welcomed the assembly and recalled the agenda:

- 1 *Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly 2020*
- 2 *Activity Report of ACIDE Committee*
- 3 *Activity reports from ACIDE's committees*
- 4 *Activity reports of the delegates*
- 5 *Activity Report of « International Spouses »*
- 6 *Contact with associations outside EPFL*
- 7 *Planning for 2021*
- 8 *Finance*
- 9 *Approval of the activity reports, accounts and budget*
- 10 *Elections*
- 11 *Miscellaneous and individual proposals*
- 12 *APPENDICIES*

The agenda was accepted without modification.

1 Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly 2020

The minutes of the General Assembly 2020 were unanimously approved. The reading was not requested.

2 Activity Report of ACIDE Committee

Christian Mörtl presented the activity report of the ACIDE committee to the assembly. During the past year, the ACIDE committee has continued its collegial function online.

In 2020, the committee dealt with the following items:

- *Contact with EPFL Management*

At the beginning of 2020, the ACIDE committee was mainly concerned with the funding problems of the association. ACIDE's situation as an association has become very perilous following the change in EPFL's policy. Indeed, EPFL's management decided to replace ACIDE's global grant with minimal funding for a few projects. After discussion, EPFL agreed to fund projects up to CHF 10,000 in 2020.

- Academic titles

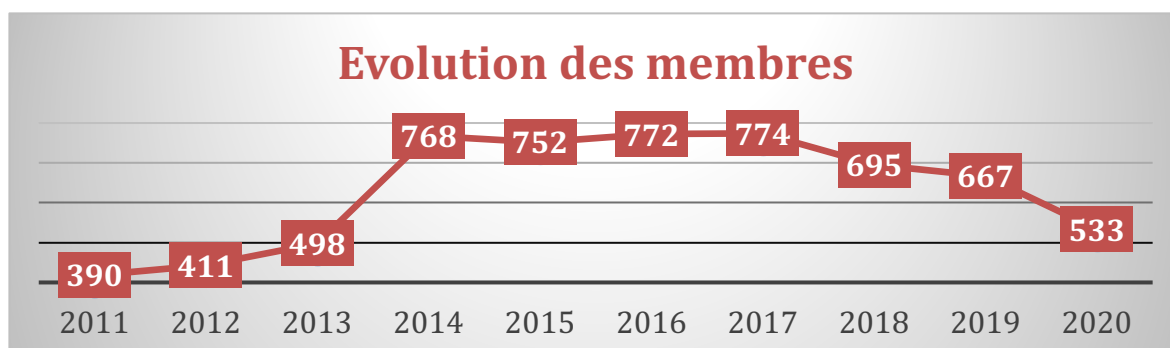
In 2020, one Senior Scientific Collaborator (CCS) title, five Senior Scientists (MER) titles and three Adjunct Professor titles were awarded within EPFL. The awarding of academic titles over the last sixteen years in the different Schools is summarised in Tables 1, 2 and 3 in Appendices.

- Advice to members and important issues

During 2020, the General Secretary responded to enquiries from CI members, organising meetings via Zoom online. When it was a professional problem, she always offered an active listening ear, answered and helped the persons concerned to find help through the structures of the institution. She also answered non-professional questions. In 2020, the new scientists and their spouses sought advice either at the Welcome Sessions or by email regarding insurance.

- ACIDE's image and recruitment of new members

Social events are important moments for the recruitment of members. At every opportunity, whether it is during social activities or French courses, ACIDE recruits new members. The General Secretary presented ACIDE at a welcome session organised by HR in 2020 for new employees.



During the past year, the number of members of the association has decreased and at the end of December 2020; our association had 533 members (compared to 667 at the end of 2019). There are several reasons for this:

- Due to Covid-19, ACIDE was unable to organise traditional festive events and missed several opportunities to recruit members.
- The closure of laboratories, following the retirement of professors, has resulted in the departure of researchers and senior researchers.
- The core group that formed our association 37 years ago is retiring.
- ACIDE is recruiting fewer PhD students since the creation of Polydoc Association.

3 Activity reports from ACIDE's committees

- ACIDE-ComDoc Committee
- ACIDE-PostDoc Committee

These two committees did not meet in 2020.

4 Activity reports of the delegates

ACIDE is represented by active delegates in the EPFL official commissions.

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

As a reminder, the Disciplinary Commission meets at the request of the President when he feels that the seriousness of the facts requires a sanction going beyond what he can impose himself. Only one case was dealt with in 2020.

- Social and Scholarship Commission (O. Lévêque)

The Social Commission meets three times a semester to decide on the allocation of scholarships to students in need. The number of scholarships allocated is around 100 per year. The rule for awarding grants is that the student must have obtained at least a passing-grade the previous year. It should be noted that foreign students cannot receive a grant during their first year of study at EPFL. The rule also applies to foreign students coming directly to the Master's programme.

- Catering Commission (E. Cledat)

A new manager for all campus restaurants has recently been hired. He wants all EPFL restaurants, cafeterias and food trucks to offer healthier and more environmentally friendly food. The doctoral students and post-docs are of course in agreement with this trend.

Due to Covid-19, the last commission was cancelled. Instead, the Commission conducted a consultation via an online form. Basically, ACIDE accepted all points except one:

- The price of the meal will be reduced for students, but there is no mention of PhD students and post-docs. It seems that the prices will increase: + 2 CHF for PhDs as well as for the rest of the consumers.

- Board of Section directors' Conference (CDS) (A. Magrez)

- Ethics Commission (A. Magrez)

- Sports Commission (M. Bachmayer)

These three commissions did not meet in 2020.

5 Activity Report of « International Spouses »

International Spouses @ EPFL is a group for and by the international spouses and partners of PhD students and scientific staff at EPFL. The group's mission is to help newcomers, exchange international experiences within their members, to introduce them to the region of Lausanne and, last but not least, to offer a social network. On December 31, 2020 the group had 190 members registered.

- Global Activities

Aysen and Zeynep were the administrators of the association in 2020.

- Weekly activities

Coffee & Chat: Every Tuesday afternoon, at Ecipure-EPFL took place until March 2020.

- Monthly activities

- January: Chambre Vaudoise Commerce-Industrie- Events.
- "International Holiday Party" was not organized because of the Covid-19.

- 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 2020, 47 students
- A1 level + A2 level + B1 level: from April to July 2020, 37 students
- A1 level + A2 level + B1 level: from September to December 2020, 37 students

6 Contact with associations outside EPFL

- ACTIONUNI – Association of Swiss University Researchers

In 2020, Christian Mörtl was ACIDE's representative to ActionUni.

Actionuni is the umbrella organisation of ACIDE. It represents young researchers as well as the associations of non-teaching academic staff of the Swiss cantonal universities, the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology, the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences and the Swiss Universities of Teacher Education, both at national and international level. Actionuni aims to improve academic careers and to coordinate the activities of Swiss associations of non-teaching academic staff.

- Participation in the General Assembly 2020 online 29.09.2020
- Discussion on GA 2020 Motion 3
- Proposal to improve the communication structure of action.uni by introducing an online forum

- ACIDUL – Association of Research Scientists and Lecturers of UNIL

No meeting with ACIDUL in 2020

7 Planning for 2021

Christian Mörtl then presented the planning for 2021 to the assembly. The projects planned for 2021 are:

- Contact with the new HRD
- Contact with the General Secretary EPFL
- Continuation of weekly Welcome Sessions
- Setting of 3 sessions of French courses for IS and Postdocs
- Setting of a new HR database for ACIDE members
- International Holiday Party 2021- IS

8 Finance

- Salaries

During the year 2020, in addition to its Secretary General,

- An accountant
- An administrative assistant
- A student assistant to maintain the website
- Four French teachers for four different levels

worked for our association. In order to reduce the social security costs, most of them provided services paid by invoice and no longer as an employee of the association.

Unfortunately, our French teacher, employed by ACIDE for 7 years, who had our full confidence and was much appreciated by her students, resigned for financial reasons. Four equally deserving teachers were hired to replace her.

- Balance sheet 2020

The 2020 budget is stable, mainly thanks to the last-minute payment of the EPFL contribution. The income is shared as follows:

▪ EPFL Grant	10'000.00	17%
▪ Membership fees	20'000.00	33%
▪ Social activities and sponsoring	30'540.00	50%

Although we were not able to meet all our expenses, our accounts were closed with a profit of 260.73 francs.

All accounts have been prepared by the accountant and have been duly audited by the two auditors.

Budget 2021

The 2021 budget is set at CHF 60'000; it foresees the same expenses as in 2020. The EPFL grant is therefore necessary, as without it, ACIDE's reserves will not be sufficient to balance the budget. Because of Covid-19, ACIDE has not been able to organise festive events which are an opportunity to hire new members, and for the same reasons, the association's sponsors are experiencing difficulties in honouring their commitments to the association.

9 Approval of the activity reports, accounts and budget

- Following the recommendation of the auditors, the assembly approves the accounts of the association and gives discharge to the committee and its accountant.
- The balance sheet for 2020 is unanimously approved by the assembly and discharge is given to the committee and its accountant.
- The budget for 2021 was unanimously approved by the assembly.

10 Elections

- Election of ACIDE delegates to EPFL commissions

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDS:	A. Magrez (membre)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disciplinary:	J.-F. Fürbringer, A. Magrez (membres)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catering:	S. Yücel (candidate)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social and Scholarship:	O. Lévêque (membre)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sport:	M. Bachmayer (membre)
- Election of auditors for the year 2020

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K. Erunsal (candidate)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Mallejac (candidate)
- ACIDE Delegate to ACTIONUNI

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Mörtl (member)

The delegates, the auditors as well as the Actionuni representative were unanimously elected by the assembly.

- Election of the Committee

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F. Altay (Member)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. Kizilkan (Member)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Mörtl (Member)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U. Norman (Member)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F. Pavan (Candidate)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F. Zuliani (Candidate)

A new member intervened to request his election as President of the association. This led to a long discussion which disrupted the scheduled GA. In an attempt mediate, another member suggested to organise an ex-traordinary GA in order to elect the new committee, the only structure able to nominate a new president. Meanwhile, the current committee remains in place.

- CI representatives to the EPFL Assembly (AE) and the School Councils (2020-2022):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AE:
P. Franz
J. Gamero
S. Hostettler
F. Zuliani | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SB:
V. Lamirand
L. Miskovic
M. Mensi
B. Truc |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENAC:
E. Belias
J. Gamero
P. Guaita
I. Mirtsopoulos | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STI:
L. El-Hamamsy
M. Galal
A. Koukab
F. Zuliani |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDM:
D. Lauinger
C. Hertel
A. Timonina | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SV:
F. Altay
S. Betka
R. Sarkis |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IC:
Missing 3 representatives! | |

11 Miscellaneous and individual proposals

EPFL has stopped all InForm forms, including the ACIDE form which allowed automatic registration of new members. As a result, some registrations had not been taken into account by HR. ACIDE regrets this situation and apologises to those members who did not receive the invitation to the General Assembly. The list of members is being updated and a new registration form will be available soon.

The meeting closed at 13:55.

ACIDE, 5 November 2021

12 APPENDICIES

Table 1: Academic titles awarded since 2005 - *Senior Scientific Collaborator*

School	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
SB	0	2	1	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0
ENAC	0	0	3	2	3	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	1
STI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IC	0	2	0	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	0
CdM	0	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	0
Total/year	0	4	4	4	5	0	2	5	1	0	3	2	0	2	3	1
Total	36															

Table 2: Academic titles awarded since 2005 - *Senior Scientist (MER)*

School	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
SB	10	3	3	8	7	3	3	4	1	4	4	3	1	5	1	3
ENAC	3	0	2	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	2
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	0
SV	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	4	4	0	1	0	0	0
CdM	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	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	0
Total/year	15	7	6	16	18	8	9	13	4	12	12	6	2	5	2	5
Total	140															

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	2020
SB	8	2	1	1	0	2	3	0	2	0	1	2	2	4	1	0
ENAC	6	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STI	4	1	2	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	2
IC	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SV	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
CdM	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
CdH	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total/year	20	4	3	10	7	3	4	2	5	5	4	3	4	5	4	3
Total	85															