

EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC DIVING PANEL
(ESDP)

25th Meeting – 22nd October 2020

Video Conference

(NB: replaces cancelled F2F meeting due to be held in Estonia)

MINUTES

		ACTIONS
1. Welcome and Present	<p>PRESENT: J-P Féral (J-PF; France), M Sayer (MS; UK), A Norro (AN; Belgium), P Fischer (PF; Germany), J Leinikki (JL; Finland), M Asplund (MA; Sweden), P Balazy (PB; Poland), M Ponti (MP; Italy), W Plaiti (WP; Greece), B Kontny (BK; Poland), P Carlsson (PC; Norway), B Mavric (BM; Slovenia)</p> <p>M Frost (MF; MARS)</p> <p>Apologies: BG-Ditmar Berov</p> <p>Absent: HR-Donat Petricioli, PT-Diogo Paulo</p>	
2. Adoption of the agenda	Agreed – no changes were proposed.	
3. Approval of minutes from the 24 th ESDP meeting	The revised minutes were discussed and accepted. No matters arising	
4. National updates	<p><i>CoVid – various updates and approaches have been circulated – some are published on the ESDP website.</i></p> <p>Belgium – CoVid: all training has been postponed to 2021</p> <p>Bulgaria – no report</p> <p>Croatia – no report</p> <p>Finland – CoVid has impacted the training system but this is being strengthened and improved for SD. Hope to</p>	

start training in Spring 2021

France – Possible to dive within France (CoVid). Regulations: “mention Bb” (archaeology) has different qualification durations (10 v 5 years). Archaeology has temporary derogations including the use of volunteers.

ECSD7 to be held in Roscoff is postponed 2021 to 2022

Germany – Most SD activity are partly going as planned. English version of the homepage is available. CoVid information published in close cooperation with Germany. Crossover Courses (Canadian to German licence (& ESD) in 6 days). VDST has positions open for SD and environment heads (changes anticipated in the relations between KFT and VDST). Two government bodies have applied for KFT membership.

Greece – CoVid: scientific diving continues but no visitors permitted.

Italy – Italian standardisation body suspended because of CoVid but some training continues but only on a university by university basis.

Standardisation process at the UNI, the Italian standardisation body, is temporary suspended due to COVID pandemic.

For the same reason, many scientific diving training events were postponed/cancelled this year. However I was able to complete the scientific diving training of the marine biology students at my university and with the Italian Association of Scientific Divers (AIOSS) we were able to complete the training of researchers and technicians from the University of Bari and the Apulian regional environmental agency.

Norway – no CoVid issues inside Norway but restrictions on visitors. Norway is making it difficult for foreigners to enter the country and the rules keep on changing. (currently test at the border and then go into quarantine for 10 days and unless to be a habitant of Norway or can show a suitable place to stay, there is a need to register before entering the country plus to quarantine in special “hotels” at your own cost. Updated rules can be found here:

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/topics/koronavirus-covid->

	<p>19/travel-to-norway/id2791503/.</p> <p>Poland – BK is the dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and a member of the Polish Committee of SD. Currently 7 members with a Memorandum of Understanding in the final stages of approval. Public consultations on a new bill that regulates commercial diving in Poland. Archaeology diving continued during CoVid but rules are becoming more strict. Providing advanced training courses that include diver training.</p> <p>Portugal – no report</p> <p>Slovenia – no major updates. Still in process of establishing SD qualification as a vocational status. CoVid: SD continues operating in restricted bubbles.</p> <p>Sweden – Health and environment regulations to be updated. “Work diving“ (which in Sweden includes SD) will have a section within “Riskful occupations” but much smaller than before with more focus on the employer’s responsibilities and the SD certification may not be mentioned (because it was before mentioned in the comments section which now may be omitted). 8-week course (Spring 2021) has not received funding yet. Other courses: international ESD course has been postponed because of CoVid but still has funding; a new course for SD dive leader (to be online – and will be open to people within science. Most likely persons from outside Sweden can attend but certification will be Swedish). The reduced availability of recompression chambers (because of CoVid) meant that SD was restricted to 9-metres during the summer at Uni of Gothenburg according to our diving regulation when we have no access to recompression.</p> <p>UK – CoVid: UK diving permitted (annual medicals extended) but some limitations in lab access. Negative impacts on diving abroad Transnational Access (ASSEMBLE+ programme – extension of 12 months), HSE DIC all new regulations and guidance is suspended by at least one year because of CoVid. New guidance / clarification on use of volunteers, volunteer divers and citizen scientists</p> <p>Gibraltar, Monaco – both expressed desires to join ESDP but nothing heard recently.</p>	<p>MA: to share information on the online SD dive leader course when</p> <p>ALL: to send J-PF a list of the current membership of their NCs</p>
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	<p>Latvia – ESDP meeting was due to be held in Latvia this time to educate and inform. Cancelled because of CoVid-19</p> <p>Spain – ongoing, but nothing new</p> <p>Austria and Cyprus – both show interest in establishing national committees.</p> <p>J-PF: A need for all to provide a list of their National Committee members</p>	
<p>5. Consultation Documents</p>	<p>SD requirements – J-PF: still ongoing, no update</p> <p>Medical spreadsheet – MS: for completion in the next 6-months. Still needs some more information on X-ray use in routine assessments.</p> <p>Rebreathers – AN: CCR meeting to establish an European Best Practice for the use of Closed Circuit Rebreathers for Scientific Diving at work. Corsica workshop cancelled (CoVid) and instead was replaced by teleconference. Present were reps from: France, Belgium, Finland, Sweden, Italy and UK</p> <p>Objectives of the meeting were to explore the addition of a chapter on training and operational best practice to add to the existing ESDP standards. The “red line” for use in SD is safety, and this will be the main focus of the document. In addition, the workshop explored how CCR provides added value for the science and /or the diver. A press release mentioning ESDP involvement in these best practices will be published soon related to the diving activities of Dr Foley (Lund University) who is a member of the working group.</p>	
<p>6. towards ISO standards for European SD</p>	<p>Wolfgang Mehl – president of EUF. Refer to his message circulated by J-PF (19-Oct-2020)</p> <p>Proposition for an ISO working group aligned with ISO/Technical Committee (TC) 228 (tourism and recreational diving) and supported by EUF.</p> <p>EUF – membership is predominantly made up of recreational diving bodies. The only “science” representative is CMAS and its Scientific Committee which has a main focus on Citizen Science.</p>	

WSDTC – what is happening??? (ESDP a member without consultation)

MP: ISO28401-3 / EN14153-3 – Level 3 diver / dive leader accepted for SD in some countries. Increasing demand for standardisation.

ESD and AESD levels are already present in the ISO standard: EN ISO 19493/2007

Pros/cons: The requirements (knowledge, skills and practical experience) can be (more or less) what we already have defined for ESD and AESD, but they have to be rearranged and contextualised in a different way. Moreover, access levels for training and evaluation methods have to be defined too. We still lacks on this. References to other ISO / EN standards are mandatory (and very useful), especially for access levels. That requires a bit of help from people expert with the plethora of ISO/EN standards.

Some cons

- Time spending preparation
- More constraints
- Some costs

Some pros

- Standard format
- More detailed and complete
- Periodic update
- Greater international recognition
- Greater clarity in issuing certifications

These standards are more increasingly required by countries (e.g. UNI Italy) and therefore it is an almost inevitable process...

Better to manage it and not passively suffer it.

AN: Very important to be involved but TC228 is wrong. Instead needs to be in an occupational-orientated TC.

MP: Agrees with the TC being the wrong platform

PF: Agrees with the wrong TC. National vs European divers and he differences between occupational and recreational sectors.

	<p>MP: many countries have jobs regulated by standards, this includes SD.</p> <p>AN: National matter, but still is room for adoption of international standards.</p> <p>MA: Commercial diving schools IDSA certification which is a ISO standard</p> <p>MS: Agrees with AN, EN 14153-3/ISO 24801-3 is recognised by our national regulators as an entry-level standard for vocational diving for some sectors including SD.</p> <p>J-PF: Differences at national levels between what certifications are accepted. A lot of effort has been made to differentiate SD from commercial and recreational diving. This differentiation remains essential for the very survival of scientific diving, used by scientists (not to be confused with activities that are part of citizen science). In order for it to exist legally and to be authorised, it had to be specifically defined and accompanied by standards which integrity has to be ensured.</p> <p>WP: Recognise the national differences but still a need to conserve a pan-European platform</p> <p>MP: The standard would not impact any national regulations. The standard would be just a reference position. There is no certification; ISO/EN are purely standards to be met within training/certification bodies. So can compliment national rules with more standardisation.</p> <p>JL: One objective is to drive ESD/AESD into the national training standards. If they were an EN/ISO Standard, this may be easier. Would be particularly of use in countries where recognition of ESD/AESD is lacking.</p> <p>J-PF: Where is the need?</p> <p>MP: To be recognised in a standardised format. And for ESDP to lead rather than be led.</p> <p>PF: ESDP standards must be the core of any SD-related ISO.</p>	<p>MP: to take ESDP guidelines and apply to the ISO format. ISO templates at https://www.iso.org/iso-templates.html</p>
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	<p>J-PF: No reason to "adapt" except to fit a compulsory template (differentiation between form (yes) and content (no)).</p> <p>MA: Have to pay for ISO/EN standards</p> <p>J-PF: ESDP and AAUS lacks compatibility at the moment but there is a need to keep the ESDP standards at their current levels.</p> <p>AN: CMAS standards lack quality control.</p>	
<p>7. MARS Network</p>	<p>There is now ESDP representation in the executive boards</p> <p>ESDP-MARS SD training initiative (see item 8 below)</p> <p>MARS-ESDP Terms of Reference (refer to J-PF email)</p> <p>Membership categories (paragraph 3.2) – Candidate member, member, statutory member. Statutory members must ensure that a representative attends each meeting.</p> <p>All to provide updates on SD developments and regulatory changes at the national level (no later than one month after the change and by Nov 25th each year)</p> <p>Membership of the National Committees should be provided on an annual basis.</p> <p>3.3 – 3 Represent their National Diving committees by ensuring that the committee membership is conveyed and is maintained annually</p> <p>4.2 Duration of chairperson Retain a 4-year duration period with no constraint on any subsequent term. J-PF has come to the end of his 4-year term (he was also chairing between 2008 and 2012) and so there is a need to elect a new chair</p> <p>J-PF, MP, MA, PF were nominated for chair position (MA and PF withdrew because of time commitments). List to be circulated by PF for voting. PF, MA and WP to be election committee.</p> <p>What ESDP can expect from MARS? Nothing to change.</p>	<p>PF, MA and WP to be election committee. Letter to be circulated for voting.</p>

<p>8. ESDP-MARS training development</p>	<p>Refer to JL presentation (ESDP SD training strategy 2020 pdf)</p> <p>Vision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a continuous opportunity to obtain SD training filling the ESD standard available for students and scientists. 2. European training courses for new techniques serve as workshops and generate new science. 3. ESDP can introduce common practices through training courses 4. Cooperation between marine stations adds to their interaction and promotes other collaboration. <p>Resources:</p> <p><u>MARS network</u> stations have a variable capacity to provide diving equipment and other facilities.</p> <p><u>ESDP</u> has connections between the SD instructors in different countries.</p> <p><u>Funding sources</u>: EU, national academies, private foundations</p> <p>Roadmap:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map diving the facilities at the MARS stations 2. Map SD-related courses that run on regular basis 3. Set up information channels to announce the training courses open to international participants. 4. Map potential funding sources to lower the threshold of students to participate in the SD training. 5. Advertise the network <p>AN: to remember that certification remains a national matter in some countries. Need to ensure that any standardised training remains relevant.</p> <p>MF: Unsure about the levels of certification but mapping resources and courses is a good idea and would assist MARS</p> <p>PF: Having joint international courses with a joint examination committee ensured that the certification was relevant [PF volunteers to join the WG]</p> <p>J-PF & JL: Can also be courses in advanced techniques / technologies</p>	<p>JL, PF & MF: To go to the next step and to map the resources before next ESDP.</p>
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	<p>MF: MARS website to be transferred to UK and be updated with interactive atlas of facilities at marine stations (including SD) – also for World Association of Marine Stations – so this initiative is timely</p> <p>MA: Certain countries can agree join training courses. AN: Specialised training, such as CCR, do not have the need for certification at national level but ESDP level.</p>	
9. IF>5 bibliography 2015-2020	<p>Using IF>5 has 50 papers (<i>Scientific Reports</i> dropped out of IF>5 after 2016) Some discussion if 5-year IF or the IF in the year published. Agreed that a paper would be included in the database if the IF>5 in the year the paper was published Action: the call for the publications must be collected by each national committee on an annual basis.</p> <p>A reminder to use the Zotero database: www.zotero.org/groups/423318/european_scientific_diving_panel</p> <p>Previously the database was distributed as a PDF using six case studies with photos and abstracts. Could be added to the MARS newsletter.</p>	ALL: each national committee to collect IF>5 publications on an annual basis.
10. 6 th ECSD Freiberg	21 - 23 April 2021 [https://tu-freiberg.de/sdc/ecsd6-2020] Planning a hybrid conference with both participants in Freiberg and virtual participants. Sessions on: Biology, Geoscience, Survey Methods, Deep- and Cold-Water Diving	
11. 7 th ECSD Roscoff	Now delayed to 2022	
12. Any Other business	AN: Proposed a vote of thanks to J-PF for his past chairing of the ESDP	
13. Date of next meeting	More frequent meetings but shorter Next meeting January 20 th 2021; 10:00 – 12:00 Topics to include Training, ISO and chairperson	