

EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC DIVING PANEL  
(ESDP)

21st Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018

HMCR Crete & Skype

MINUTES

**DAY 1**

		ACTIONS
1. Welcome and Present	<p>PRESENT: J-P Féral (J-PF; France), W Plaiti (WP; Greece), M Sayer (MS; UK), A Norro (AN; Belgium), P Fischer (PF; Germany), T Dailianis (TD; Greece) MARS network representative: C Arvanitidis (CA; Greece)</p> <p>BY SKYPE: M Ponti (MP; Italy); D Petricioli (DP; Croatia); M Asplund (MA; Sweden)</p> <p>APOLOGIES: M Waldey (MW; Norway)</p> <p>ARRIVED LATER: J Leinikki (JL; Finland)</p>	
2. Adoption of the agenda	Agreed – no changes were proposed.	
3. Approval of minutes from the 20th ESDP meeting	<p>New diving cylinder standards published as an EN ISO on 21st September 2018: ISO 18119:2018: Gas cylinders -- Seamless steel and seamless aluminium-alloy gas cylinders and tubes -- Periodic inspection and testing</p> <p>The report of the 20<sup>h</sup> meeting was circulated and the final version is now accepted.</p>	
4. Consolidate and clarify ESDP membership categories	<p>Discussed the new ToR (attached)</p> <p>Current status: Full Member (FM) – BE, DE, FI, FR, IT, NO? PT?, SE, UK Associated Member (AM) – BG, GR, HR Candidate member (CM) – DK?, SP?, PL</p> <p>Permanence of status of the National Scientific Diving Committee (NSDC):</p>	To discuss during next ESDP meeting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That they are a true representative of the national SD community</li> <li>• Linked with a national authority</li> <li>• Minimum training requirements (ESD and AESD)</li> <li>• Should publish their legal status</li> <li>• Publish minutes / newsletter / updates from the NSDC</li> </ul>	
5. National updates	<p><b>Spain</b> – PF: Spain and Germany plan a joint ESD-course for 2020. Because there is not yet a national committee on SD in Spain in place, the University Malaga is taking an initiative to allow students and researchers at University Malaga and also from other Universities to participate in such a pilot course. The course will end for all participants with the examination to the "German Certified Research Divers / geprüfter Forschungstaucher“ on which the certificate „ESD“ will be issued. J-PF is aware of other initiatives but lacks clarity.</p> <p><b>Denmark</b> – (Konstantinos Alexiou; University of Southern Denmark - SDU). The term “scientific diving” doesn’t exist in law. All diving operations are classified as “commercial diving”. The regulations apply to diving operations when performed on the Danish territory and continental shelf or from Danish ships and at diving depths of up to 50 metres. All visiting scientists must follow the Danish regulations. This is the preferred route as there is a good safety record. But to date no reciprocity with member states even provided with legislation on scientific diving is envisaged by the SDU.</p> <p><b>Poland</b> – (Piotr Balazy). At present people diving in the universities and institutions doing research are not obliged to obey to the commercial diving rules anymore. At the same time the rules and conditions of scientific diving are not defined at all in Poland yet. IO PAN have implemented its own internal "Regulations" based mainly on ESPD system and general best practice, deriving from CMAS mostly. A diving evaluation form is filled out and evaluated before each dive. The possibility of Poland having uniform regulations across all institutions might be a problem as most of the archaeologist diving in Poland is based on commercial diving.</p> <p><b>Norway</b> – (Mats Waldey). Letter of concern, signed by directors of all major scientific institutions and museums of Norway, to the Ministry stating that the new regulations are</p>	

too restrictive with more equipment and larger dive team sizes. The people from the Ministry listened but made no promises. The new regulations were related to diving incidents on fish farms, related to scientific diving (“Diver-S”). New regulations limit SCUBA to depths of less than 18 metres. Deeper must use surface supply. They do not accept recreational qualifications for entry-level commercial training. Obviously the Health & Safety Board basically think it is safer not to dive.

AN – MW should report to ESDP on the accidents to give better information on what happened.

**Belgium** – This year was the 10th anniversary of our (A)BSD training. This training provides the Belgian professional competency level for diving as defined in the Belgian legal text. The Royal Decree’ 2003’ was re-written and published the 7 February 2018 in the Belgian labor code under the ‘occupational well-being’ section.

BSD and ABSD certificates are fully equivalent to respectively ESD&AESD

During fall 2018 was started the 3th phase of our scientific diving training. The continuous part of the (A)BSD training is organized from an inland dive site by the Belgian Working Group on Scientific Diving as a day by month. New techniques are proposed as well as a possibility to already certified (A)BSD or foreigner to practice scientific diving tasks.

**Sweden** – Working on clarification on the diving regulations. No updates to report at the moment.

**France** – 2011 regulations have still not been signed off. Still no news to the date of publication of the decrees amending procedures of the mentions A (commercial diving) and B (to which belongs SD).

**UK** – SDSC is revising their Guidance Notes – presently at second draft level. Once accepted by the SDSC the notes will go to the national regulators for “recognition” (they cannot be approved legally but are recognised as industry best practice)

**Germany** – No major changes. Making minor revisions to their guidance rules. Update should be published in 2019.

**Greece** – No major changes. Scientific diving continues to be excluded from the law and continue to follow institution

	<p>rules. Scientific diving is covered and (possibly) insured as “fieldwork”. Wanda Plaiti is now the representative for Greece in the ESDP.</p> <p><b>Croatia</b> – Beginning of 2018 state makes new code for all diving activities. Hoped that the code would be multi-sectorial but the new code will now fall under Maritime Law. So Scientific Diving is not now recognised by the ministries of Science or Labour. Diving can, however, continue under some internal institution regulations or can use recreational diving – but this is less ideal. Hope for more clarity at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Italy</b> – No major changes. Some environmental agencies are now complying with the ESD/AESD standards.</p> <p><b>Finland</b> - The national examination for occupational diving is going to be renewed during the upcoming winter. It will probably be in force by the next ESDP meeting in spring. The contents of the examination are not yet agreed, but they will be as close to present AESD as possible, with different threads for archaeological and biological (all natural sciences) scientific divers.</p> <p><b>Ireland</b> – new commercial diving regulations to be introduced in 2019. Based heavily on the UK regulations except that there is no specific section for scientific diving – all types of inshore diving will be rated as “Inshore commercial diving”. Annual medicals (same type and frequency as UK), 2-year First Aid, SCUBA limited to 30 metres.</p>	
<p>6. Last examination of the ToR / anything to clarify, complete</p>	<p>Terms of Reference for the ESDP.</p> <p>JL: “Page 4: "Where possible that person should be able to prove that he/she has support for representing their country or National Scientific Diving Committee (if they exist)." This can be interpreted that anyone can turn up and say that he/she will represent a country at the ESDP., since the need to prove this is only required "where possible". I suggest that this representation needs to be documented somehow. If it will be challenged by another individual from the same country, the decision needs to be made on fact basis.”</p> <p>No further comments so ToRs are formally accepted.</p>	
<p>7. Exploring avenues of</p>	<p>Presentation by Christos Arvanitidis. Co-authors: Matt Frost, Herman Hummel, Pim van Avesaath.</p>	

<p>cooperation with MARS network</p>	<p>MARS objectives: include promotion of co-operation, exchange programmes, and to make infrastructure available ESDP – presentation in October 2017 and a Memorandum of Understanding: sharing website, and back to back events, but with plans for more ambitious future events.</p> <p>Also established partner in WAMS – the World Association of Marine Stations</p> <p>MARS &gt; 60 marine institutes. Pan-European, long-lasting, good international connections, science to policy linkage</p> <p>Proposal on MARS – ESDP co-operation scheme (to be linked to the MARS strategy):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To mutually benefit</li> <li>• To support each other</li> <li>• To provide a co-ordinated voice for marine science in policy arenas</li> <li>• To support ad-hoc activity – e.g. long-term time series</li> </ul> <p>Possible key indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Conference on Scientific Diving in Marine Stations and Institutions</li> <li>• Linkage with EMBS meetings</li> <li>• Increased memberships</li> <li>• Common meetings for students and professionals</li> <li>• Increased profile for Scientific Diving</li> <li>• Providing advice and policy drivers</li> <li>• Establishing better funding platforms</li> </ul> <p>Target groups: IOC, UNESCO, EU etc.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> Links are welcomed. Any joint meetings need to be identified as early as possible. For example, a World Conference would require 3-4 years to arrange.</p> <p>Increasing profile of SD: more support from Marine Station directors. Link conferences more with MARS. Highlight scientific outputs as supported by SD. Promotion of industry links.</p>	
<p>8. Updating the ESDP web site, national contributions,</p>	<p>ESDP website is well-ranked and there is a holding page on the MARS website. Need to regularly update the ESDP website; MARS updates are less easy (have to go through the MARS web-master).</p>	

<p>holding page on MARS website</p>	<p>Links to national committee websites. There was a range in how the information is presented. So there is a need to update national webpages plus a need to produce standard text for the ESDP website (in English). Need also to reduce the number of websites and/or improve the linkage between the sites.</p> <p>Please refer to: <a href="http://ssd.imbe.fr/-Pages-of-the-national-SD-?lang=en">http://ssd.imbe.fr/-Pages-of-the-national-SD-?lang=en</a></p>	<p><b>ALL:</b> To ensure that all the information is up to date and that all members try to provide all summary information that they can.</p>
<p>9. A European Scientific Divers database?</p>	<p>Proposal for a list of European Scientific Divers. There are problems with GDPR. It was wondered what was the point plus these lists tend to become obsolete / don't get updated. Some institutes have their own lists based on those getting paid for diving. Some NSDCs have lists – some debate over how to use these lists and whether they are GDPR compliant. It was agreed that creating and maintaining such a list; it was decided not to pursue this option.</p>	
<p>10. Scientific Divers community survey (M. Ponti initiative)</p>	<p>Questions to MP about the message about the scientific divers community survey.</p> <p>MP: proposal to other groups to survey scientific divers around the world for scientific research purposes. Intention is to collate data and make that information available freely and openly. Particular focus on providing a platform to generate collaborations.</p> <p>It was considered to be a problem to hold these data in line with the GDPR.</p> <p>MP: a privacy policy is in place and data storage will be fully GDPR-compliant.</p> <p>AN: Request for details of the research proposal. It was unclear as to what the research aims and objectives were.</p> <p>General feeling that this was not an initiative that ESDP could support in its present form. MP asked for a vote on this but it was considered that the proposal lacked any clear hypotheses against which a realistic vote could be taken. MP was encouraged to rethink the proposal in more detail.</p>	
<p>11. ESDP working group on SD European</p>	<p>The 4<sup>th</sup> ECSD in Orkney in 2018 was moderately successful. The 5<sup>th</sup> ECSD is organised for Poland in 2019. A call has been published for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> ECSD meetings in 2020 and 2021. ESDP are supporters of this initiative but</p>	

Conference	do not own the series. Discussion whether to keep annually or biennially.  With the potential for aligning with some of the MARS meetings then we may want to alter how we organise co-meetings in the future with links and or sub-symposia.	
12. Common reference list for scientific diving (Zotero)	All should check that they have access to Zotero. The aim now is to include ALL publications that have used scientific diving. There is a link: to the “general” list for all SD supported publications, whatever the IF could be. A special sorting for articles in journals rated at IF>5 will be done (2015-2019).	<b>ALL:</b> 1/ Update the Zotero lists. 2/ Prepare a special list clearly including the value of the IF>5 back to 2015
13. Towards an equivalency list	List has been completed by all members. Still in raw format and will be condensed	<b>J-PF:</b> to produce a clean / condensed edition by next ESDP
14. Medical examination	List has been completed by all members. Still in raw format and will be condensed	<b>MS:</b> to produce a clean / condensed edition by next ESDP
15. Rebreather standard	Aim to submit an EU standard for rebreathers. Will probably keep a small working group on this matter. Only a few with advanced knowledge in use of rebreathers.	<b>AN:</b> to keep the initiative ongoing with some text to propose at the next ESDP
16. Any other business	ISO 18119:2018 - Gas cylinders -- Seamless steel and seamless aluminium-alloy gas cylinders and tubes -- Periodic inspection and testing has been adopted ( <a href="http://www.iso.org/standard/61505.html">www.iso.org/standard/61505.html</a> )  EN 250 - Respiratory equipment. Open-circuit self-contained compressed air diving apparatus. Requirements, testing and marking – due for revision in 2019.	
17. Date and location of next meeting	Spring 2019 – Sopot is the first choice. But if not then may be Brussels / Marseilles	<b>J-PF:</b> To produce a Doodle poll in January

## DAY 2

		ACTIONS
	PRESENT: J-P Féral (J-PF; France), W Plaiti (WP; Greece), M Sayer (MS; UK), A Norro (AN; Belgium), P Fischer (PF; Germany), T Dailianis (TD; Greece), J Leinikki (JL; Finland), W Plaiti (WP; Greece)	
1. Questions and points to make with MARS directors	<p>The collaboration of MARS with ESDP was welcomed in general as a lot of the MARS members may not have a good understanding of scientific diving or of the existence of the national committees.</p> <p>J-PF: Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of scientific diving – why use it, where we dive, equipment considerations, extended ranges</li> <li>• Why European organisation? – mobility, specialised courses, increased efficiency</li> <li>• History of European scientific diving; history of ESDP</li> <li>• Current status of ESDP – current and expanding membership, what it does, outputs to date</li> <li>• IF&gt;5 survey</li> <li>• Global interactions</li> <li>• What do we expect from the MARS network – enhanced visibility, to underwrite the official status of ESDP, provision of an established platform for further development and adoption of SD as a valid technique and technology</li> <li>• What ESDP brings to MARS – create awareness of common services and best industry practices, identify science priorities, promote awareness, co-organise dissemination activity, increased communication</li> <li>• Websites – co-ordinating the two.</li> </ul> <p>Various corrections and revisions were made to the satisfaction of the group.</p>	
2. MARS – common actions	<p>Common challenges – covered in the presentation.</p> <p>Can there be co-ordinated access to scientific diving facilities (similar to ASSEMBLE / ASSEMBLE+)</p>	
3. Strengthen guidance for joining and	<b>Denmark</b> – appreciate your message. ESDP would prefer communicating with a representative of a national committee. The position of regulating scientific diving in	



<p>membership of ESDP</p>	<p>Denmark is not dissimilar to other European states – under law. We recognise that Denmark accepts “approved” commercial diving qualifications but you do not provide details.</p> <p>However, the ESDP supports the pan-European recognition of the ESD and AESD qualifications to support transnational mobility. Ideally we would prefer to see a national committee established in Denmark so that we know that we are communicating with a truly representative body. The ESDP can assist with establishing such a committee.</p> <p><b>Norway</b> – It is a pity that Norway is introducing new regulations that are putting scientific diving under pressure. Relate to the situation in other member states. Is this an opportunity to highlight that SD is distinctly different to other sectors and has a very different safety record? There are plenty of statistics available globally that show that coordinated scientific diving, predominantly using SCUBA, has a very good safety record.</p> <p><b>Poland</b> – Letter encouraging organisation of a national committee to provide a coordinated approach to communication and establishing at least a code of practice for scientific diving (in the absence of formal diving regulations). ESDP can provide advice and guidance.</p> <p>General statement: to provide evidence recognising training standards at a level that guarantees safety if they are observed. By keeping the training and oversight to similar levels to other states, and in particular to the ESD and AESD standards, then this further reinforces transnational mobility in scientific diving.</p>	
<p>4. Zotero and high impact papers</p>	<p>Covered in the Day 1 meeting</p>	