

EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC DIVING PANEL
(ESDP)

27th Plenary Meeting – 8th November 2021

Video Conference

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), D Berov (DB; Bulgaria), W Plaiti (WP; Greece), I. Nesse-Aarrestad (IN-A; Norway)</p> <p>Invited: E. Stockdale (ES; Finland), , B. Kontny (BK; Poland), G. Cervin (GC; Sweden), E Turicchia (ET; Italy)</p> <p>Applicants: L. Hadjiaoannou (LH; Cyprus), C. Crisp (CC; Gibraltar), M. van de Kamp-Romijn (MvdK-R; Netherlands), E. Wurz (EW; Netherlands)</p> <p>Apologies: M Frost (MF; MARS), SI B. Mavrič (BM ; Slovenia)</p> <p>Absent: D Petricioli (DP; Croatia), D Paulo (DP; Portugal),</p>	
2. Adoption of the agenda	Agreed – no changes were proposed.	
3. Approval of minutes from the 26 th ESDP meeting	<p>Corrected version circulated.</p> <p>Status of GAUSS? May be finished? A company has now been created offering underwater work.</p> <p>Some interest from Spain.</p> <p>Corrected version has been approved.</p>	
4. National updates	Belgium – Updating website. Training courses being developed jointly with Brussels University – seeking funding.	

Bulgaria – No significant update on the legal status on professional SD. Have a basis for a NSDC.

Croatia – no report

Finland – The Finnish Scientific Diving Academy has become established; the leader is Edward Stockdale. All SD training will be co-ordinated through the Academy (including ESD and AESD). Aim to begin training in April, then twice a year, plus specialities (e.g. rebreathers)

France – A new text being drafted on the implementation of the decrees concerning the SD stipulates among other things that if not employed by France, the scientist must prove

- A training acquired in a preponderant way in the European Union (EU),
- A diploma, certificate or other evidence of formal qualifications issued in an EU Member State, or issued by an authority in a third country, provided that the competent authority of the Member State which recognised such diploma provides proof of the training and qualification of the scientist in question, or of training acquired which fulfils the same educational objectives as those set out in French law.

ESDP standards, are authorised to dive after verification by the diving officer if they are in possession of a valid medical aptitude.

This text will include ESD/AESD, which is a big advance.

ECSD7 to be held in Roscoff is postponed 25-29th April 2022

Germany – Fully accept ESD/AESD if country is a statutory member of the ESDP. Rules on decompression tables will be updated soon (see minutes 26 meeting).

Training courses have resumed since CoVid.

Greece – Very busy since CoVid. Not much progress on NSDC, so following the national rules at institutional level. Contacts established with archaeologists but not yet with polytechnics. No formal link yet with sciencediver.eu

*"Add in proof"
Postponed 2023 !*

	<p>Italy – No major update. Starting to work on a document that will standardise SD in Italy; hope to be complete within one year.</p> <p>Norway – Temporary representative is now Ivor Nesse-Aarrestad (marine archaeologist). Working on getting new licences for SD in Norway but these are conversion courses that only recognise Norwegian certificates; the conversion course is 8-10 weeks. All institutes have had to upgrade their SD equipment (including new boats) to comply with surface supply etc. Plan to challenge this situation at Government level. Unlikely that scientific divers from abroad can dive in Norway.</p> <p>Poland – Still no NSDC in Poland; adjusting the final agreement but hope that this is agreed soon. Currently have five institutions in tentative NSDC; hope to increase this to seven. Draft on national law on “underwater working” (which mentions SD) has not yet been completed.</p> <p>Portugal – no report</p> <p>Slovenia – no report</p> <p>Sweden – New elections in NSDC to be held soon. GC has volunteered to be next ESDP representative but has to be ratified.</p> <p>UK – No significant changes.</p>	
<p>5. SD across countries and continents</p>	<p>Assuring quality of ESDP membership: Is there a need to re-visit the ESDP membership criteria?</p> <p>National issuing of SD certification: education plans – what are they, what do they do, are they needed? Should this be a consultation document?</p> <p>There is still discussion about the issuing of ESD/AESD certification and how this is done. List of equivalencies?</p> <p>ISO application: Three levels of Scientific Diving proposed. ISO process started officially in September. Level 1 – WSDTC equivalent Level 2 – ESD equivalent Level 3 – AESD equivalent</p>	

	<p>ISO discussions to run over next 3-years but ESDP representatives need official invitation through their national standards body.</p>	
<p>6. New ESDP applications</p>	<p>The Netherlands: At this moment all leading Dutch institutions involved in scientific diving (SD) have agreed on working together towards commonly accepted standards for SD in the Netherlands based on the standards for SD developed by the ESDP. The institutes using scientific diving for their research in the Netherlands have joined forces in a recently erected national SD committee, named Dutch Scientific Diving Platform. Currently lack a formal recognition of SD – this hampers work and collaboration. Goal is to establish a legal framework for SD. Developing a protocol for SD for acceptance by Ministry, a training programme, and national certification. Involved with other groups lobbying against commercial regulations. Once accepted as candidate member, they will choose a representative of the Dutch SD Platform to present their application at the next meeting of the ESDP. <i>Decision: pending</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to complete table of requirements - Need of information regarding SD in national waters vs. abroad <p>Cyprus: Scientific Diving (SD) in Cyprus is mostly unregulated with no legal framework in place. Organisations that already use diving at work include Universities, research institutes, Governmental departments and private companies. Foreign scientists also visit Cyprus regularly to conduct research using SD with no permission needed (if samples are not collected). There is a definite need for regulating SD since procedures at the moment are risky both for the workers as well as for the environment. It is hoped to establish a SD training centre. Discussions and efforts from various groups in order to try and regulate SD in Cyprus have been made in a number of occasions in the past decades. No effort was successful because of a lack of proper coordination and/or available resources. Being a small country, there are few organisations in Cyprus using SD. But all are known and all are invited</p>	

to attend and join the NSDC. An unofficial ‘Cyprus National Scientific Diving Committee’ has been created
Decision: pending – to complete table of requirements

Gibraltar:

Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory but has its own elected Government, which is responsible for all internal matters (and therefore self-governing) such as provision of municipal services, trade, health, education, housing the Environment etc.

SD in Gibraltar is not currently regulated under local legislation and has no limitations and or restraints at the moment. Recreational diving and commercial diving are regulated on their own merits. Recreational divers need to obtain a licence from the Department of the Environment under the Marine Protection regulations 2014, which have certain conditions attached to them. Commercial diving is regulated by the Gibraltar Port Authority who issue the licences through the Port operations. Commercial diving is defined under these regulations as ‘any diving activity conducted by a company or business enterprise in support of civil engineering or marine related projects in BGTW which may include a wide range of activities, ranging from complex marine construction and engineering tasks, salvage and ship repair through to simple underwater inspections.

Gibraltar’s Scientific diving community is currently small but with very strong potential to expand. A Gibraltar Scientific Diving Committee has been established and members include representatives from the Department of the Environment, the National Museum and the University of Gibraltar.

Next steps are to include an SD framework under statute through the Marine Protection Regulations 2014, this has already been discussed and approved in principle by the Minister for Responsibility for the Environment.

Moving forward with the adequate establishment of regulations and legislating the scientific diving committee. Concerning SD towards the UK, Gibraltar is self-reliant and self-governing on these issues, as of others. Within the legislation outlined above Gibraltar has the power to establish its own regulations, set within local legislation. We are therefore in a very unique position and have the ability to work on a ‘blank canvas’ with regards to SD.

Decision: pending – to complete table of requirements

6. Consultation Documents	<p>Medical spreadsheet – MS: draft intended for Dec 2021</p> <p>Rebreathers – AN: Document now ready in draft format. Not able to have a f-2-f meeting yet.</p> <p>SD requirements in European Countries (J-PF). See PDF and WORD documents. Some clarification required. The information is required quickly.</p>	ALL: Check the document and revise or correct if required
7. World Congress of Marine Stations	<p>J-PF firstly considered as a potential speaker, submitted a title but never received any answer, – no slot for SD in the published program, then finally not attending. J-PF gave links to connect for interested people.</p>	
8. Any Other business	No other business	
9. Date of next meeting	<p>Try to have a physical meeting? <i>(obviously CoVid permitting)</i> Dates in May 2022 Location: One of the candidate members?</p>	

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