

Approved

MINUTES

		ACTIONS
1. Welcome and Present	<p>Present: BE A. Norro, CY L. Hadjiaoannou (intermittently), DE P. Fischer, FI J. Leinikki, FR J.-P. Féral, GI C. Crisp, GR W. Plaiti, IT M. Ponti, NL T. Murk, PL P. Balazy, SE G. Cervin, UK M. Sayer (intermittently), MARS M. Frost (intermittently)</p> <p>Apologies: NO P.M. Carlsson</p> <p>Absent: BG D. Berov, HR D. Petricioli, PT D. Paulo, SI B. Mavrič</p>	
2. Adoption of the agenda	Agreed.	
3. Approval of minutes from the 28 th ESDP meeting	Corrected draft version has been approved without changes.	
4. National updates	<p>MARS (Matt Frost): MARS has offered an umbrella for ESDP over the recent 2 years. Was recently transferred from Dutch ownership to the Marine Biological Association. MBA has a magazine that welcomes articles from ESDP. There are members from 73 countries, and their network is at the disposal of ESDP. Recently WAMS (World Organization of Marine Stations). Going to see that ESDP website is visible at their website. And that ESDP is represented at the MARS or WAMS meetings. MBA magazine “Marine Biologist” is not good for publishing ESDP consultation documents, but may be used as an introduction channel for them. The magazine has an ISSN number. They also have a journal for scientific articles.</p> <p>Gibraltar: Building up SD infra from scratch. SD falls between the classes of professional and recreational diving. Legislators are in favor of recognizing SD. The process is ongoing. Local SD committee wants to make sure that legislation does not produce any issues in the future, thus treading with caution. Committee represented the Environmental Office, Gibraltar University and National Museum. Recreational diving has no link to the SD committee. No training has been arranged so far. ESDP will be mentioned in the law as the reference point for training standards.</p> <p>Belgium: Training course (A)BSD is fully equivalent to (A)ESD. From this year onward the theory was given as an academic course at VUB, Brussels University “Methods of SD”. A new research vessel RV Belgica used for SD. Renewal of certification is making difficulties as always due to lack of</p>	

	<p>scientific dives. We ask people to show 60 dives, including 30 scientific ones after 5 years. If the applicant fail to show that, then the full training is to be taken again or some other protocole depending on the dives recorded. Due to covid (6 yrs instead of 5).</p> <p>Bulgaria: no report</p> <p>Croatia: no report</p> <p>Cyprus: No progress in establishment of the national SD committee. The governmental body where SD will be placed is already known. SD protocols already under development with help from University of Southampton.</p> <p>J-PF asked for clarification on how ESDP standards would come into force. The response, although positive, was not entirely convincing (testing of several protocols from different sources).</p> <p>Finland: Two ESD training courses have been run by the professional school Luksia and Finnish Scientific Diving Academy at Helsinki University. Two examinations are accepted by FSDSA as ESD/AESD compatible. AESD/ESD cards are going to be revised. National committee will arrange a workshop on the use of rebreathers in SD during the winter 2022-23. Martin Sayer noted that Rebreather Forum 4 will be held in Malta 20-22 April, 2023. https://rebreatherforum.tech/</p> <p>France: The writing of the French law is not yet achieved. One text is still missing defining the role of the Hyperbaric Prevention Advisor, blocked by the Ministry of Labour. In fact, it is blocking the whole decree concerning SD training.</p> <p>The French law on SD is France-centric and does not take into account European standards. This important aspect should be addressed in another text (instructions), intended for organisations, describing the means of action. This is where the "equivalence" aspects are dealt with and where the ESDP standards are mentioned.</p> <p>The obstacle of the covid having diminished, 2 training centres operate by combining compulsory legal training (obtaining a CAH, certificate of aptitude for hyperbaric work) and scientific training via a DU (university diploma) in diving in the marine environment: Perpignan & Dinard + Roscoff. A third centre is under discussion (Brest).</p> <p>Also due to the covid crisis there was sometimes a lack of dives making more difficult the renewal of certification (every 5 yrs).</p> <p>Germany: New legislation passed at the government level. It is in force already. 28 institutes represented in the NC. Seven training centers. Joint training with Sweden, Finland and France. Next year training in surface supply diving for scientific divers.</p>	
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	<p>Greece: Lack of scientific divers are hapering activities. Some young trainees are in sight. In 2024 SD conference will be used to promote a better position for SD in Greece. No National Committee so far.</p> <p>Italy: Italian certification fully complies with the ESDP standards. Training pathway may include several modules run by diverse organizations that must comply with the laws and standards. The 2-year plan of the National Committee is to have a national standard that complies with the ESDP one.</p> <p>Netherlands: Name change to Dutch National SD Committee. Each institute has its own SDO. Personal information is held by the SDO's. National committee will keep a registry of certifications. A special group of 3 SDO's will be responsible for the certifications. Online theoretical SD course launched in September for PhD and MSc students. From Jan 2023 also available to candidates outside Wageningen University. Practical training to start in 2023. Regarding training, J-PF asked if there were any links with GUE. TM assured that there were none in the context of occupational diving.</p> <p>Norway: No report</p> <p>Poland: Still waiting the statuts to be published for the invitation of a larger panel to join the National OSD committee. The aim is to attract more members to be involved in the NC's activity. Technical diving conference (https://baltictech.com/english) in Gdynia at the end of November.</p> <p>Portugal: No report</p> <p>Slovenia: No report</p> <p>Sweden: 2nd annual meeting just finished. Eleven parties represented. ESD course held in cooperation with GEG and FI. Documentation course at GU. Shortage of pressure chambers. Work licenses obtained through diving schools that run 5 weeks. Looking into a possibility to run the courses at the Gothenburg University.</p> <p>United Kingdom: No changes in UK SD. The consultation on professional medical exams is still underway which will impact SD as well. Changes will probably be small and mostly relate to tracking post-COVID symptoms.</p>	
<p>5. Follow up of the ISO standards process, official position of the countries represented (BE, FR, IT, PT, UK, FI)</p>	<p>The "standard" is now fully drafted and will be sent to the national standard agencies</p> <p>The WG started with ESD and AESD training standards as the basis, the final draft is completely different being today "low level" standard for recreational divers willing to learn about science. Moreover, the term OSD used at the beginning of the discussions has now completely disappeared from the ISO texts</p>	<p>All: Members are encouraged to contact their national representatives at the ISO standard committees to allow the national OSD committees to review the proposal</p>

	<p>Little support from some ESDP countries present PT, IT, FI.</p> <p>Only BE and FR clearly expressed their opposition to these standards not taking into account the rules of occupational scientific diving sector and laws already in force in several EU countries.</p> <p>For AFNOR (FR), as it stands, this project of ISO standards is obviously not applicable on French territory, neither about the Sports code, nor about to the Labour code. France does not understand the confusion between <i>recreational diving professionals (instructors)</i>, who meet divers potentially interested in environmental issues, and <i>occupational scientific divers</i> who do not work in diving schools as they have been defined in the different recreational standards of WG1. Therefore, France is very sceptical about the scope of these ISO standards lowering these of initial occupational training and about their usefulness in countries that have already integrated the European standards (ESD and AESD) or equivalent into their regulations and practice.</p> <p>Italian association declared to be also opposed to the proposal and sees it as a standard for citizen science training. The silence of the Italian representation in support of the ESDP's positions was however noted.</p> <p>Germany: it's an action from the sport diving community, trying to overrun the national committees of occupational scientific diving. This would be more of an operation to increase the market for dive training by the large recreational diving agencies.</p> <p>UK: trying to stay involved. The WG was not aiming at citizen science. The USA has a strong influence on the levels of the standard. Levels 2 and 3 are not quite at the level of (A)ESD.</p> <p>BE: ISO WG says that the standards were for SD, not Citizen Science, because there is a plan to develop that separately. The contents of the proposal emphasize learning scientific data analysis methods like statistics to people who are not scientists.</p> <p>Further NBN (BE) made a statement at the end of the ISO meeting when the declaration was asked by the chairman (M. Denison) explaining that BE was not accepting the standards at they were presented mainly due to medical control being contrary to BE law and because of the course admission requirements. The conditions asked by BE are the ESDP one, that requires being a scientist or a person recognized by a scientific institution. That condition is very weak in the ISO standard. They propose a very weak condition about a scientific background and open the training to applicants from 14y old onward.</p> <p>In general, the proposed ISO-standards were considered an offensive against ESDP and the national SD standards.</p>	
6. Reminder of the aims of the ESDP and the	J-PF outlined the very simple aims of the ESD panel (European platform promoting safe SD, full compliance and enforcement of standards, controlled issue of certificates of initial competence).	

<p>meaning of membership</p>	<p>Membership is voluntary. Each country keeps its sovereignty. The organisation into 3 categories based on factual criteria (accessible on the panel website) is the showcase of the panel.</p> <p>J-PF noted that some situations run counter to this desire for clarity and consistency. Continuing to classify BG as a "member" is not sustainable if one compares its profile, entirely recreational diving, and therefore subject to the much less restrictive CMAS standards, with those of countries making much more effort to comply with the ESDP standards that are classified as "candidate", such as PL or NL. Similar remarks apply to the "member" status of HR and PT.</p> <p>Discussion whether it is useful to have more categories of membership. It now is: Candidate member – Member – Statutory member - Perhaps only add ‘Observer’ for countries that are interested but not yet work on becoming member.</p>	<p>J-PF to write to the representatives of these countries inviting them to provide information that could allow an update. If they do not produce the elements to fully meet the criteria of "member", these 3 countries will now be classified as "candidates" until their profile becomes compatible.</p>
<p>7. Update of Consultation Documents</p>	<p>Doc 01: Revisions in ANNEX 1: Recognized National Authorities for Scientific Diving at Work in Europe</p> <p>Doc 05 “medic”: MS recirculates the table to collect possible changes that have taken place since 2020.</p>	<p>All: NCs to check</p> <p>All:Quick responses requested</p>
<p>8. New Consultation Documents</p>	<p>SD and citizen sciences (DE)</p> <p>Training courses and National issuing of SD certification FI, NL)</p>	<p>PF to prepare a shared document</p> <p>JL, TM: to start working on the training document</p>
<p>9. Selection of the next chairman for ESDP</p>	<p>Poll will be during the spring meeting in 2023 (ESDP’ 30th meeting). Eligible candidates must represent the statutory members. Candidates’ statement of aims to voters will be forwarded by electronic means in 2023.</p> <p>Suggestion: have three people taking up the task of chair, so they can take turns, share burden and can take over if needed. This will be checked, what change in ToR would this require? Should be all clear next time.</p>	<p>All: Consider and suggest candidates</p>
<p>10. Comparison of the standards promulgated by the major recreational diving training agencies (e.g. GUE, CMAS, NAUI) with the ESDP standards</p>	<p>All feedbacks show that (1) the objectives, other than those of the ESDP, are not relevant to the professional practice of science, (2) the pre-requisites as well as the standards are far lower than what is needed (and accepted by the statutory states) to fulfil ESDP’s.</p> <p>TM expressed worries about mixing up CSD and OSD, where commercial parties offer lower standard science diver courses, e.g. supported by ISO standards that will add to this confusion.</p> <p>J-PF defended a similar position. CSD is in fact, far too diverse to imagine that a standard suitable for all situations that a CS project may encounter could be developed and even be acceptable. For the field part, the diving, the participants are <i>de facto</i> either OSD or recreational.</p> <p>It is not with one or more additional training that the recreational diver becomes an “overall” citizen science diver.</p> <p>The action undertaken by recreational training agencies/ISO tourism sector to train "scientific divers" that they position as a hybrid between occupational scientific divers and citizen science divers is only blurring the situation even more. The individual</p>	

	<p>taking such training will not gain a job in the end but just be the product of the system.</p> <p>AN suggested the introduction of a quality control process based on field monitoring by an invited ESDP member of the content and delivery of training courses (complying with the ESDP standards) as well as the criteria for issuing national certificates of competence.</p> <p>The fact that OSD should be about diving scientists, perhaps arranging a protected name was also discussed</p>	
11. Updating of the website (for broader participation by members)	<p>Request for esp. statutory member: ‘welcome to dive for science’</p> <p>Germany: this is difficult as we have quite different types of OSDs.</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <p>Write a guide for lab administrations “abroad” which receive foreign visiting scientific divers.</p> <p>Objective: to respond to the demand of statutory member countries to simplify procedures, and to put the information online (use the “Welcome to dive for science” -page).</p> <p>The way of issuing certificates should be explained as well</p> <p>The difference between Occupational Scientific Diving and Recreational divers exercising Citizen Science should be made clear.</p> <p>Issues: to solve / clarify in citizen science:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibilities • Required minimum level of training and experience • Quality of the collected data • Recognition of the different profiles of divers and the roles they can assume <p>AN after MS underlined the difference between “to teach diving to a scientist” (OSD) and “to teach science to a diver” (CSD) ...</p>	<p>Statutory members: Update/publish a “Welcome to dive for Science in ***”</p>
12. Any Other business	<p>AN: A Germany-based company was making the ScienceDIVER course in Corsica, at the Stareso station. The course proposed to become a “scientific diver”. The students were told that they could receive ESD certifications.</p> <p>PF explained that they did not get it from Germany, but the from other countries belonging to both ESDP and the consortium ScienceDIVER</p> <p>Request: next time 2 shorter meetings on dedicated projects, two dedicated shorter meetings instead of 1 very long one.</p>	
13. Date of next meeting	To be decided, depending on the Roscoff ESDC in April, 2023.	All: Suggest and/or support a date and venue proposed by the Chair.