

**Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 73 meeting (AGM)
Held online and at Università della Svizzera Italiana,
Lugano, Switzerland**

9 June 2022

www.fmeurope.org

Present at the meeting were:

- Ana Cavalcanti (Chair)
- John Cooke
- Ferruccio Damiani
- Lars-Henrik Eriksson (Secretary)
- Alessandro Fantechi
- Marie Farrell
- João F. Ferreira
- Carlo A. Furia
- Maria Gleircher
- Stefania Gnesi
- Marieke Huisman
- Marie-Christine Jakobs (not FME member)
- Einar Broch Johnsen
- Randolph Johnson
- Cliff Jones
- Jeroen Keiren
- Taimoor Khan
- Martin Leucker
- Michael Leuschel (not FME member)
- Matt Luckcuck
- Alexandra Mendes
- Claudio Menghi
- Dominique Mery
- Rosemary Monahan (not FME member)
- José Nuno Oliveira
- Taras Panchenko
- Virgile Prevosto
- Nico Plat
- Conor Reynolds (not FME member)
- Mohammad Rezaalipour (not FME member)
- Leila Ribeiro (not FME member)
- Pedro Ribeiro
- Elvinia Riccobene
- Matteo Rossi
- Ivan Ruchkin
- Laura Semini
- Oisín Sheridan (not FME member)
- Volker Stolz
- Maurice ter Beek
- Tim Willemse
- Burkhardt Wolff

1 Welcome and agree upon agenda

Ana Cavalcanti welcomed the members present. The agenda was agreed upon.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting and review of actions

The minutes of the December 2021 meeting were approved.

There were no open actions.

3 Annual report for 2021

Lars-Henrik Eriksson presented the annual report of the board for 2021 (attached to the minutes). The meeting approved the report.

4 Financial report for 2021

Nico Plat presented the financial report for 2021 (attached to the minutes). The meeting approved the report.

5 Report by the Independent Financial Examiners

The independent financial examiners (Carlo Furia and Marie Farrell) had individually checked the FME accounts. These reports are attached to the minutes. The meeting discharged the Treasurer from his responsibilities during this period. Ana Cavalcanti thanked the Treasurer and the Independent Financial Examiners for their work.

6 Elections

a) Two board member, to serve until the 2025 AGM. In accordance with FME statutes, Nico Plat and Einar Broch Johnsen stepped down as Board member. They had indicated their willingness to serve a further term. There were no other candidates to take his position. Therefore, Nico and Einar were reelected unopposed.

b) One board member, to serve until the 2023 AGM (by-election). Stefania Gnesi stepped down early from her position as board member. Ana Cavalcanti presented her with a certificate as thanks for her services to the association. Maurice ter Beek was elected to the board for the remainder of Stefania's term.

c) One Independent Financial Examiner for 2022 and 2023. According to FME statutes, Carlo Furia cannot serve another term as independent financial examiner. The meeting expressed its thanks for his service. Marieke Huisman accepted taking this role. She was elected *nem con*.

7 Status report on FM'23

Maurice ter Beek reported that Marsha Chechik and Joost-Pieter Katoen are PC co-chairs. The Call for Papers has been sent.

Martin Leucker (General Chair) reported that the social programme will include a boat trip and that they are looking for sponsors.

8 FormaliSE

Nico Plat and Stefania Gnesi reported on FormaliSE 2022. There had been 36 submissions of which 18 were accepted. The conference was held one day on-line and one day physical. Nico Plat thanked all people involved in the organisation.

9 Book Review Committee report

Matteo Rossi reported from the Book Review Committee. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

10 Teaching Committee report

Leila Ribeiro reported from the Teaching Committee. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

11 Communications Committee report

Einar Broch Johnsen reported from the Communications Committee. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

12 Industry Committee report

Ana Cavalcanti reported that the chair, Klaus Havelund, had stepped down and that Tim Willemse had been appointed chair in his stead

13 Collaboration with BCS-FACS

FME and BCS-FACS reasserted their mutual collaboration..

14 Open Access for proceedings of the FM Symposia

Maurice ter Beek reported from the ad hoc committee on Open Access for the FM Symposia.

15 Double-blinded reviews for the FM Symposia?

Ana Cavalcanti reported that FM'23 will have double-blinded reviews and that this will be evaluated after the symposium. Discussion with various opinions.

16 Process to adapt to new Dutch legislation for associations

Nico Plat reported on the work being done by the board in adapting procedures and statutes to meet requirements of new Dutch legislation. The presentation is attached to the minutes.

17 Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will probably be held in September and be a hybrid event .

18 Other Business

There was no other business.

Formal Methods Europe: report on activities in 2021

The FME Board June 2022

This report is a brief account of the association's activities between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021.

1. Board

Board members during the period were Ana Cavalcanti (Chair), Lars-Henrik Eriksson (Secretary), Nico Plat (Treasurer), Stefania Gnesi (Symposia and Deputy Chair), Einar Broch Johnsen (Communications).

2. Membership

On 31 December 2021 the association had 421 members in total, an increase of 47 from the previous year.

326 members (77%) come from academic institutions, 69 (16%) from commercial institutions and 26 members (6%) have no affiliation or come from other institutions (e.g. non-academic research institutes). The proportion of academic members show a slightly increasing trend. Roughly 71% of the members are based in Europe. Only a small part of the membership (estimated at 10%) is actively involved in FME activities.

103 of the members have a suspended status because of unknown contact details. (They could not be reached for a membership details update request in 2016.)

3. Symposia/Conferences

FormaliSE

FormaliSE was held on May 18-21 as an on-line event in conjunction with ICSE 2021. The Organising Committee members were Stefania Gnesi (ISTI, co-chair), Nico Plat (Thanos, co-chair), Lucia Nasti (University of Pisa, social media chair), and Larisa Safina (INRIA, virtualisation chair). The PC chairs were Simon Bliudze (INRIA) and Laura Semini (University of Pisa). 13 papers were accepted out of 44 full submissions. The keynote speakers were Moshe Vardi (Rice University) and Liliana Pasquale (University College Dublin and LERO).

FM'21

FM'21 was originally planned to be held in Beijing, China, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was instead held as on-line event in the week starting November 20. The general chair was Huimin Lin (Chinese Academy of Sciences) and the PC chairs were Marieke Huisman (University of Twente), Corina Pasareanu (Carnegie Mellon University and NASA Ames Research Center), and Naijun Zhan (Chinese Academy of Sciences). The I-day chairs were Erika Ábrahám (RWTH Aachen University) and Yang Liu (Nanyang Technological University Singapore).

35 regular papers, 5 "journal-first" papers, 9 I-day papers and 7 Doctoral Symposium papers were accepted. Invited speakers were Clark Barrett (Stanford University), Paula Herber (University of Münster), Assi Mahboubi (INRIA and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), and Mingsheng Ying (University of Technology Sydney). The I-Day invited speakers were Carl Seger (Chalmers University of Technology) and Grant Passmore (Imandra, Inc.). The Doctoral Symposium invited speaker was Erika Ábrahám (RWTH Aachen University).

FM'21 had two workshops (appFM and FMTea), three tutorials and three satellite events (SETTA, MEMOCODE and VECoS).

4. Publications

The FME website was maintained by Einar Broch Johnsen. The FME mailing lists were maintained by Lars-Henrik Eriksson and hosted by Uppsala University

FME maintains a list of FM events including important dates. The list is available on the FME web site.

The FME events@fmeurope.org e-mailing list is available for announcements related to established conferences in the FM area as well as events organised or sponsored by FME.

FME also has a presence on the LinkedIn web site and has a YouTube channel.

5. Grants and sponsorships

Three sponsorships were granted during 2021, but only two of them were actually paid out in the end. Refer to the Financial Report for details.

6. Special Interest Groups

FME currently has no Special Interest Groups.

7. Standing Committees

FME currently has five standing committees: the Awards Committee (contact: Augusto Sampaio), the Book Review Committee (contact: Matteo Rossi), the Communications Committee (contact: Einar Broch Johnsen), the Industry Committee (contact during 2021: Klaus Havelund, now: Tim Willemse), and the Teaching Committee (contact: Luigi Petre).

8. Industry-Research Collaboration

FME has a Memorandum of Understanding with FMICS to collaborate in holding an annual joint industry-focussed event.

There is also a Memorandum of Understanding between FME and the British Computer Society Specialist Group on Formal Aspects of Computing Science (BCS-FACS) on holding an annual joint seminar.

9. Meetings

Two meetings were held in 2021, both online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The AGM was held on May 6 with 26 participants, and a second meeting on December 14 with 20 participants.

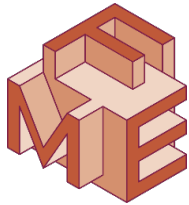
Additionally, the Board held 9 online board meetings.

10. Awards

The FME Fellow Award was awarded to Dines Bjørner at the FM'21 Symposium.

11. Other activities

CORE proposed to lower the FM Symposia ranking from A to B. Thanks to a major effort by the Board and other FME members, our symposia kept their A ranking.



Financial Report 2021

May 1, 2021
Formal Methods Europe

Prepared by Nico Plat (Treasurer)

Introduction

This document provides:

- The 2021 budget as approved at the 70th FME meeting, held on 10 December 2020 online (minutes available from <http://www.fmeurope.org>).
- FME's financial results over the year 2021.

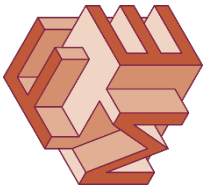
The year 2021 again was in many respects a different year than others, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For FME this meant that spending was lower, due to lack of travel, usually a significant amount to spend for FME. For the same reason sponsorship spending was lower, although a few sponsorship grants had been awarded. The FM Symposium was held in November, organised by the Institute of Software, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The expected surplus of the Symposium will be paid in 2022. It should be kept in mind that the Symposium remains the only source of income for FME, so all future spending must be planned taking this fact into account.

The bank statements and cashbook of the association for 2021 have been reviewed and approved by the independent financial examiners: Carlo Furia and Marie Farrell.

The treasurer asks for discharge of his duties for the financial year 2021.

Rotterdam, May 2022

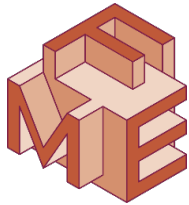
Nico Plat
Treasurer



Approved Budget 2021 and Financial Report 2021

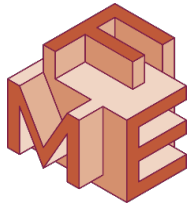
The table below presents the budget for 2021 as (approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting 2021) and the financial results for 2021.

No.	Description	Budget 2021				Results 2021				
		Surplus and deficit		Balance		Surplus and deficit		Balance		
		Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit	
01	Total assets beginning of year									
02	Total assets end of year			€ 95.961,63	€ 89.611,63			€ 95.961,63	€ 93.907,27	
	Administrative items									
03	Interest received on deposit account		€ 0,00				€ 0,00			
04	Banking and organisational cost	€ 200,00					€ 176,50			
05	IT infrastructure	€ 150,00					€ 131,19			
	Operational items									
06	Formalise	€ 0,00					€ 0,00			
07	Sponsorships	€ 3.500,00					€ 1.034,60			
08	Travel costs FME Board	€ 1.000,00								
09	Miscellaneous	€ 250,00					€ 212,07			
10	Committee funding	€ 1.250,00								
11	Debit payments						€ 500,00			
12	Subtotals	€ 6.350,00	€ 0,00	€ 95.961,63	€ 89.611,63	€ 2.054,36	€ 0,00	€ 95.961,63	€ 93.907,27	
13	Net surplus	-€ 6.350,00		-€ 6.350,00		-€ 2.054,36		-€ 2.054,36		
14	Totals	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 89.611,63	€ 89.611,63	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 93.907,27	€ 93.907,27	



With respect to this report, the following observations can be made:

- [03] No interest was received on the savings account this year. This is in line with global current trends.
- [04] Banking costs and other operational costs were a bit less than projected.
- [05] IT Infrastructure costs were also a bit less than expected, even though FME now hosts its website externally, which has increased the monthly fee we pay to the service provider.
- [06] The FormaliSE conference in 2021, originally planned to be held in Madrid, Spain, was held online instead. Hence no costs were made for the event.
- [07] Sponsorships. Although three requests for sponsorship had been granted, only two grants were actually paid: one to SBMF 2021 and one to ATVA 2021.
- [08] The board held no physical meetings, hence there were no associated travel costs.
- [09] Miscellaneous costs were limited to the medal for the FME Fellow Award, and to buying on-line support that will help FME to comply with new Dutch legislation (WBTR).
- [10] Funds to support the work of the FME Committees was budgeted but none was requested.
- [11] The debtor that FME had in 2020 (a student to whom a best paper award had been given at FM 2019 in Porto but could not be located at the time) was paid in 2021.
- [13] The financial year was closed with a loss of €2.054,36. This is less than the projected loss of €6.350,- because overall spending during this year was far less than expected, due to a variety of reasons as explained above.
- [14] Total assets at the end of the year were € 93.907,27.



Revised Budget 2022

The budget for 2022 that was approved at the 72nd FME Meeting on 14 December 2021 has been slightly revised to reflect the real assets at the beginning and the end of the year, see the table below.

		Budget 2022			
		Surplus and deficit		Balance	
No.	Description	Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit
01	Total assets beginning of year			€ 93.907,27	
02	Total assets end of year				€ 87.457,27
	Administrative items				
03	Interest received on deposit account		€ 0,00		
04	Banking and organisational cost	€ 200,00			
05	IT infrastructure	€ 150,00			
	Operational items				
06	Surplus FM'2021 China		€ 3.400,00		
07	FormaliSE	€ 2.500,00			
08	Sponsorships	€ 3.500,00			
09	Travel costs FME Board	€ 2.000,00			
10	Miscellaneous	€ 250,00			
11	Committee funding	€ 1.250,00			
12	Subtotals	€ 9.850,00	€ 3.400,00	€ 93.907,27	€ 87.457,27
13	Net surplus	-€ 6.450,00		-€ 6.450,00	
14	Totals	€ 3.400,00	€ 3.400,00	€ 87.457,27	€ 87.457,27

END OF REPORT

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date 2022-03-11

Independent financial examination of FME's financial records: Year 2021 report

For inspection of FME's 2021 financial records about the year 2021, I received the following documentation on 2022-02-18 from FME's Treasurer Nico Plat:

- The cashbook reporting all expenses and income
- A bank statement detailing all transactions of FME's checking account
- A bank statement detailing all transactions of FME's savings account
- A bank document reporting starting (at 2021-01-01) and final (after 2021-12-31) balances of FME's checking and savings accounts
- FME's financial report for the year 2021, comparing the approved budget to the actual incurred expenses
- Guidelines about the role of this financial examination according to FME's by-laws

In my review of these documents, I checked that:

- The transactions listed in the cashbook match those listed in the bank statements (and vice versa) according to their amount, date, and justification
- The overall starting and final balances are consistent with these transactions
- The financial report also lists, under actual incurred expenses, the same amounts as the cashbook, aggregated per category and with notes explaining any discrepancies between approved and actual budget
- The financial report's totals per category add up and are consistent

Based on this review, I found that FME's financial records accurately reflect the administration of the association and its activities. I found no discrepancies, and all financial transactions were transparently and accurately justified. The clarity of the documentation indicates that FME's financial management for the year 2021 has been diligent and consistent with the association's planned budget.

*Based on the positive outcome of my examination, I recommend FME's members to **accept** the financial report for the year 2021.*

Sincerely,



Carlo A. Furia

Date: March 9, 2022

Examination of FME Accounts 2021

Dear FME members,

At the Formal Methods Europe (FME) AGM held on the 6th of May 2021, I was appointed as an independent financial examiner for the financial year 2021. I report that I have completed my review of the financial records for the year 2021 using the data provided to me by the FME treasurer, Nico Plat. Specifically, I was provided with the following documents:

1. the 2021 cashbook
2. the statements of the general bank account over 2021
3. the statements of the savings bank account over 2021
4. the financial overview of the bank, stating start and final balances for the year
5. a report relating the approved budget for 2021 to the actual spending
6. guidelines on the role of the independent financial examiners

In my role as independent financial examiner, I carried out the following tasks:

- checked for consistency between the cashbook and the statements of the bank account
- checked that the overall starting and final balances are consistent with the statements
- checked for consistency between the cashbook and the report
- checked the comments in the report

Based on my review of these documents, I conclude that FME's financial records and report are accurate. I found no discrepancies and all transactions were sufficiently justified. I recommend that FME members accept the financial report for the year 2021.

Sincerely,



Dr. Marie Farrell
Senior Post Doctoral Researcher
Maynooth University
marie.farrell@mu.ie
<https://mariefarrell.github.io/>

Book Review Committee

FME AGM
June 9th, 2022

Goal

- provide to the FM community high-quality reviews of books on topics of interest to the community
- reviews highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the book, to help researchers who are looking for reference texts in their areas of interest

Committee

- Simon Bliudze (INRIA Lille, FR)
- Wan Fokkink (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, NL)
- Constance Heitmeyer (Naval Research Laboratory, US)
- Einar Broch Johnsen (University of Oslo, NO)
- Annabelle McIver (Macquarie University, AUS)
- Matteo Rossi (Politecnico di Milano, IT)

- bookreview@fmeurope.org
- <https://fmeurope.org/book-review/>

Procedures

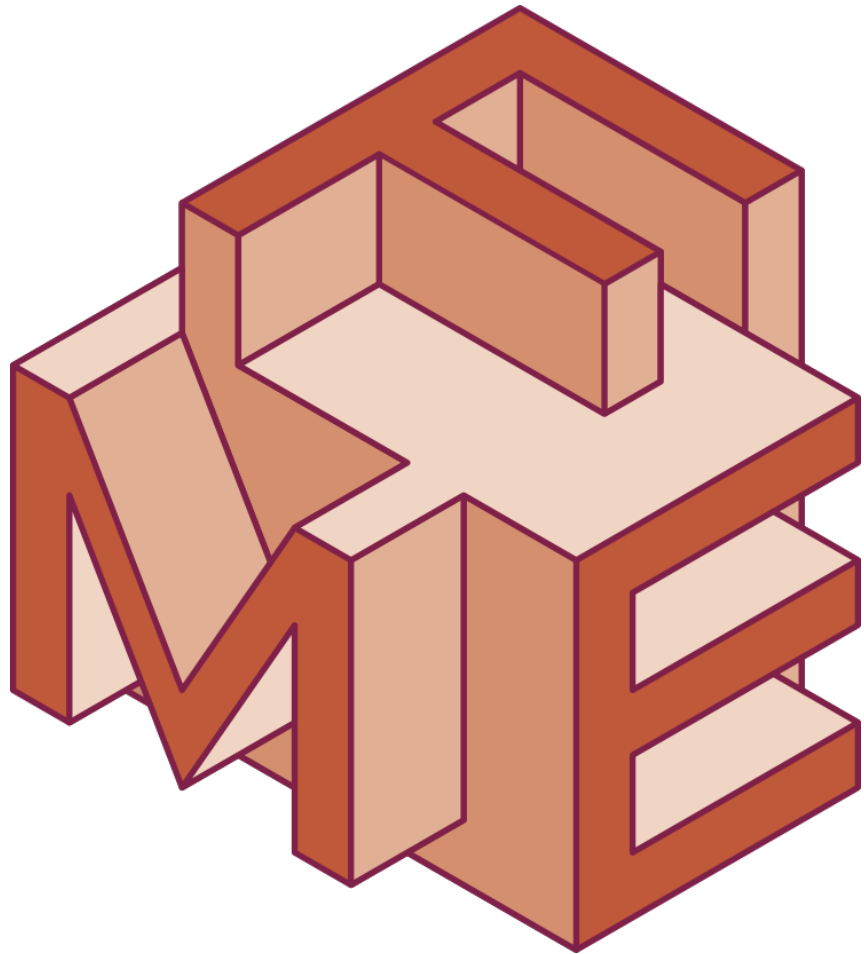
- BRC members select books of interest, then ask esteemed colleagues to review them (or review them themselves)
- reviews are not anonymous
- published on FME website, but also possibly in Formal Aspects of Computing journal
 - <https://fmeurope.org/categories/bookreviews/>
- Committee meets every 2-3 months via conference call

Status

- 1 review recently published on FME website
- 1 review to be published soon
- 2 reviews being consolidated for publication
- 2 reviews expected in the next 2-3 months
- Reviews are referred to Formal Aspects of Computing for possible publication in journal
 - Most reviews have already been published in Formal Aspects of Computing

Connection with Communications Committee

- Matt Luckuck acts as liason between BRC and communications committee
- Some activities involving BRC and CC
 - Spread the news of reviews to FME community
 - Notify publishers when reviews are out
 - Notify authors when reviews are out



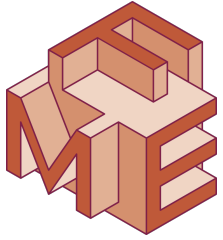
FME Teaching Committee

status, 9.6.2022

Leila Ribeiro and Luigia Petre

Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

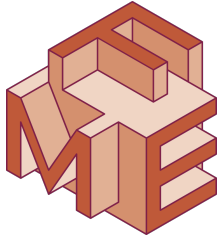
Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland



Teaching Committee members



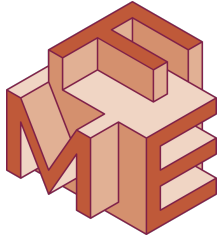
- Brijesh Dongol, University of Surrey, UK
- Catherine Dubois, ENSIIE, France
- João F. Ferreira, IST, University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Alexandra Mendes, University of Beira Interior, Portugal
- Luigia Petre (chair), Åbo Akademi University, Finland
- Leila Ribeiro, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
- Pierluigi San Pietro, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- Graeme Smith, The University of Queensland, Australia



Happy about



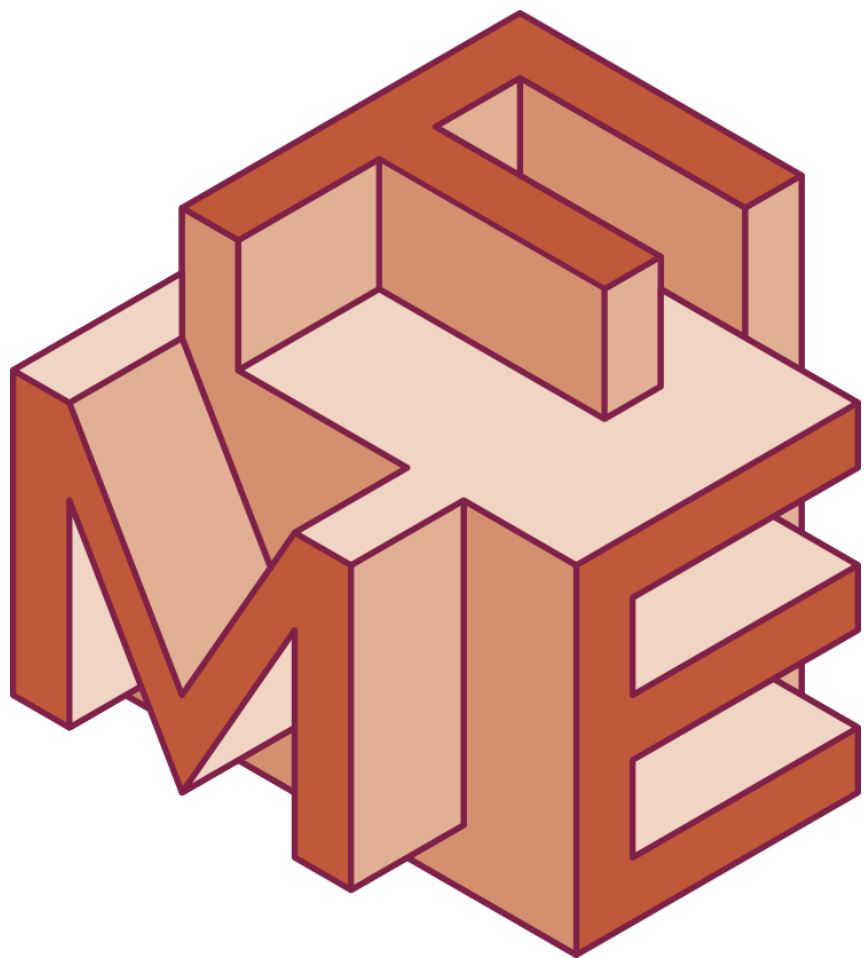
- FMTea (FM Teaching) → currently main workshop on teaching formal methods
 - FMTea21 videos can be seen
 - http://lcs.ios.ac.cn/fm2021/fmtea_cet/
 - Next edition planned to join FM 2023 in Lubeck (application deadline June 10)
 - Catherine Dubois and Pierluigi San Pietro co-chairs
- Tutorial series
 - Very successful
 - Our speakers: Sandrine Blazy, Ran Ettinger, David Pearce, Shriram Krishnamurthi, Jeremy Gibbons
 - Next → June 17: Tim Nelson (US), July 29: Erika Abraham (Germany), August 26: Robert Lewis (US), September 30: Michael Leuschel (Germany), October 28: Allan Blanchard (France)
- Courses database
 - <https://fme-teaching.github.io/courses/>



Next on our agenda



- COST action application
 - Deadline: October 20, 2022
 - Previous application call: 500 applications, only 40 selected (= 8% acceptance rate)
- ACM Curriculum
 - Leila attended the ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education
 - Most recent Computer Science curriculum from 2013, they work on a new one
 - It seems FM and functional languages are gaining support
 - **We will try to add FM to the list of knowledgeable areas**
 - Leila Ribeiro and Brijesh Dongol



FMTea



Keep in touch!

<https://fme-teaching.github.io/>

FME Communications Committee: Report on activities 2020

Einar Broch Johnsen, Univ. of Oslo, Norway

June 9, 2022

The Communications Committee

- **Established:** October 2018.
 - **Aim:** to support the dissemination of material about formal methods as well as FME activities.

 - [Carlo A. Furia](#),
Università della Svizzera italiana,
Switzerland.
 - [Einar Broch Johnsen](#),
University of Oslo, Norway
 - [Matt Luckuck](#)
Maynooth University, Ireland
 - [Lina Marsso](#)
University of Toronto, Canada
 - [Claudio Menghi](#),
McMaster University, Canada
 - [Pedro Ribeiro](#),
University of York, UK.
- Role:** [Carlo](#) will work on the communications strategy and guidelines for conferences and liaise with board members in charge of conferences.
- Role:** [Einar](#) chairs the Communications Committee, maintains the FME website, Twitter account, and LinkedIn group. He works on an overall policy document on communications.
- Role:** [Matt](#) will liaise with the Awards Committee, the Book Review Committee, and the Industry Committee. Website integration.
- Role:** [Lina](#) is a new member of the committee. She is working on dissemination channels for academic positions in formal methods.
- Role:** [Claudio](#) will liaise with the Teaching Committee. Claudio has also developed a questionnaire to collect feedback from FM conferences.
- Role:** [Pedro](#) is in charge of communications for FME business meetings. Pedro is also in charge of FME's videos and YouTube channel.

Activities in 2021

- **Standard activities:** liaise with the other committees of FME
- **Video recordings** of keynotes at FM 2021, SEFM 2021, FMAS 2021.
- **Publicity plans and social media** for FormaliSE 2022 and FM 2023
- **Web pages** for the Industry Committee
- **Communication strategy.** Document in progress
- **FME website:** maintenance and migration
- **How to disseminate academic positions in FM?**
- **«FM in industry» video:** collab. with Industry Committee, in progress

Management and Supervision of Legal Entities Act

Wet Bestuur en Toezicht Rechtspersonen (WBTR)

Aims of the legislation

- To improve the quality of governance of, and control over, associations
- To avoid:
 - Misgovernance
 - Irresponsible financial governance
 - Self enrichment
 - Misuse of positions
 - Entanglement of interests

What must be done?

- Implement proper governance (including risk management, transparency, financial controls, integrity, code of conduct)
- Better definition of board member roles, responsibilities and operations, eg. measures in case of (temporary or permanent) absence of board members, avoiding conflicts of interest, etc.
- Address liability (board members are personally liable in some cases, eg. fraud by other board members, or when neglecting financial risks)
- Adjusting the statutes to reflect some of these issues. Note: we want to take the opportunity to “modernise” the statutes.

Practical measures

- Perform risk management
- Clear descriptions of functions, roles and responsibilities of board members
- Strict control over bank accounts: eg. two persons needed to transfer money over a certain amount, regular check of the account by other board members, etc.
- Consider insurance to reduce consequences of personal liability and other financial risks [not decided]
- Address voting and decision making within the board
- Setup code of conduct [ongoing]

Status

- Most measures have been implemented by the board
- Notary has been contacted to change the statutes
 - Draft new statutes will have to be improved by the membership
 - Ready (planned) by the end of June
 - Probably extra meeting to vote on the statutes