Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 79th meeting
Held online and at the Politecnico di Milano

12 September 2024
www.fmeurope.org

Present at the meeting were:

- Wolfgang Ahrendt [Chalmers U. of Technology]
- Bernhard Aichernig [TU. Graz]
- Ana Cavalcanti (Chair) [U. York]
- Maurice ter Beek [CNR-ISTI]
- Dirk Beyer [U. München]
- Simon Bliudze [INRIA]
- Gustavo Carvalho [U. Federal de Pernambuco]
- John Cooke [Loughborough U.]
- Agostino Cortesi [U. Ca' Foscani Venezia]
- Catherine Dubois [ENSIIE]
- Lars-Henrik Eriksson (Secretary) [Uppsala U.]
- Alessandro Fantechi [U. Firenze]
- Carlo A. Furia [U. della Svizzera italiana]
- Stefania Gnesi [CNR-ISTI]
- Arnd Hartmanns [U. Twente]
- Marieke Hausman [U. Twente]
- Ian Hayes [U. Queensland]
- Reiner Hähnle [TU Darmstadt]
- Einar Broch Johnsen [U. Oslo]
- Cliff Jones [Newcastle U.]
- Sung-Shik Jongmans [Open U. in the Netherlands], not an FME member
- Dino Mandrioli [Politechnico di Milano]
- José Nuno Oliveira [U. of Minho]
- Abhijit Paul [U. Dhaka]
- Luigia Petre [Åbo Akademi]
- Andrea Pferscher [U. Oslo]
- Nico Plat [Thanos]
- André Platzer [Karlsruhe Institute of Technology]
- Matteo Pradella [Politechnico di Milano]
- Violet Ka I Pun [Western Norway U. of Applied Sciences]
- Elvinia Riccobene [U. Milano]
- Matteo Rossi [Politechnico di Milano]
- Kristin Yvonne Rozier [Iowa State U.], not an FME member
- Andrei Samokish [U. Paris-Saclay], not an FME member
- Cristina Seceleanu [Mälardalen U., Sweden], not an FME member
- Silvia Lizeth Tapia Tarifa [U. Oslo], not an FME member
- Stefano Tonetta [Fondazione Bruno Kessler]
- Jan Tretmans [Radboud U. Nijmegen]
- Andrzej Wasowski [IT U, Copenhagen]
- Heike Wehrheim [U. Oldenburg]
- Alexander Weigl [Karlsruhe Institute of Technology]
- Tim Willemse [TU Eindhoven]
- Jim Woodcock [U. York]
- Naijun Zhan [Peking U.]

1   Welcome and agree upon agenda
Ana Cavalcanti welcomed the members present. The agenda was agreed upon.

2   Minutes of the previous meeting
The minutes of the June 2024 meeting were approved.

3   Status report on FM'24
Matteo Rossi reported on FM'24.

4   FormaliSE

Nico Plat reported on FormaliSE 2025. It will be held on April 27-28, 2025, in Ottawa, co-located with ICSE 2025. PC Chairs are Anastasia Mavridou and Gwen Salaün. See also https://2025.formalise.org.

5   Work on the Code of Diversity

Ana Cavalcanti reported on the work on the Code of Diversity. A draft version is attached. Marieke Huisman mentioned that ETAPS has a separate session on diversity every year.

6   FME Events mailing list policy

Lars-Henrik Eriksson reported on the trial with allowing announcements of FM-related positions on the FME Events list. He also asked for comments on the posting policy for the list – particularly about where to put the bar for relevance to the list. See attachment.

A suggestion was to include only one CfP for marginally relevant events. Another suggestion was to separate more and less relevant postings in the digest message. This is however not possible with the current technical solution.

The meeting decided to make the trial with announcement of open positions permanent, but follow up on the number of postings.

7   Colocation and/or merging of FM events

Ana Cavalcanti reported on the efforts on coordinating FM events. Most FM events see decreasing activity. Also, the FM Symposia series is the only A-ranked (by CORE) event in the area. Discussion on the possibility to merge or co-locate events.

Participants commented that

- One strong FM conference every year would be better for the community.
- Just coordinating events would be beneficial but transparency is important.
- One should be careful colocating with large events such as FLoC. The experience of co-locating FM'18 with FLoC presented challenges.

Concrete proposal of merging TAP into a track of FM. More events could be co-located with FM. Possibly a 6th FME Board member could be added with this responsibility.

Contact Ana Cavalcanti if you have additional suggestions.

8   Honorary members

The new statutes for FME make it possible to appoint honorary members. See attachment. Ana Cavalcanti asks how we can use that possibility for the benefit of FME.

A proposal was to appoint honorary members from the USA to help increase interest of the FM Symposia in the USA and to counter any perception that they are just European events.

Contact Ana Cavalcanti if you have additional suggestions.

9   Search for sponsors

The new statutes for FME make it possible to appoint institutional members (sponsors). See attachment. Ana Cavalcanti asks how we can use that possibility for the benefit of FME.

We should have institutional members that reflect positively on the FME Association. Some potential sponsors could be controversial due to nationality (e.g. consider the tension between the USA and China in the IT sector) or business area (e.g. weapons). We must avoid a situation where members resign because they object to a sponsor.

Contact Ana Cavalcanti if you have additional suggestions.

10   Committee activities

Matteo Rossi reported from the Book Review committee that some reviews are almost ready for publication.

Luigia Petre reported from the Teaching Committee. They are interested in promoting FM as a knowledge area in the forthcoming ACM Curriculum, which is supposed to be in only 6 years time. They would like to set up a committee that meets regularly and works on it. They are also thinking about launching a book series on FM, in the spirit of Software Foundations (https://softwarefoundations.cis.upenn.edu) but more diversified.

Tim Willemse reported from the Industry Committee. There will be another InFM session in October. Leo Freitas (ScubaTx) will give a talk. As usual, they are looking for interesting speakers from industry, that are willing to talk about their use of formal methods in their company. Suggestions are welcome and can be sent to Tim Willemse (t.a.c.willemse@tue.nl). Several tutorials have been recorded during FM. We plan to look into these and see whether we can make these available also via the website of the Industry Committee.

11   Other Business

There was no other business.

12   Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held online on Friday December 13, at 15:00-17:00 CET.

(Lars-Henrik Eriksson)
FME Secretary

(Ana Cavalcanti)
FME Chair

Code of Diversity

Working draft

Goals

- Ensure equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) principles are considered in the organisation of FME events at all levels.
- Ensure equal access to the FME events.
- Provide guidelines for conference organizers to consider EDI in their work.
- Provide evidence of our EDI principles.
- Complement our code of conduct (…) in ensuring inclusive event experiences.

EDI guidelines

- EDI concerns should cover aspects related to race, gender identity, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, and sexual orientation.
- Except only in the pursuit of following the next guidance, these aspects should play no role in the decisions to invite colleagues to the various committees, in the appointments to the posts of committee chairs, in the decisions to invite colleagues to the conference, or in the outcome of any applications, including, but not restricted to paper submissions.
- Regarding gender, geographical professional affiliation, affiliation to academia or industry, and level of experience, organisers should take steps to ensure representation in the teams involved in panels, committees, committee chairing, and in the set of invited speakers, in accordance with their level of presence in the community.
- Organisers should consider mechanisms that can encourage EDI in the event and can improve representativity in the community.   Some examples are use of double-blind reviewing, and positive sponsorship of attendance for underrepresented groups.
- Choice of location of events should not have an adverse effect on on the pursuit of the EDI principles.
- All artefacts and events should be made accessible to all, in as far as it is practical, and certainly if needed.

FME Events mailing list policy

- Trial with announcements of FM-related positions on the events list.
    - Starting after the Business Meeting in February.
    - Since then a total of 113 messages have been sent. ($\approx$3.5/week)
    - Of those messages 12 were position announcements. (10.6 %)

- General events list policy:
    - Messages will be approved only of they directly relate to established events, such as conferences, competitions and summer schools, where Formal Methods is a major topic, or other events that are specifically endorsed by FME. Events must be international in scope. Less established events are also considered if they are clearly focused on Formal Methods. Events concerning techniques underlaying Formal Methods, such as formal logic, semantics and automatic theorem proving, are not by themselves considered to be in scope for the events mailing list.

Honorary members

What the new statutes say

- Honorary members are those who, due to special merits for the association, have been appointed as such by the general meeting and have accepted their appointment.

- Honorary members [...] do not pay annual dues, but otherwise have the same rights as members.
[The statutes permits the association to charge annual membership dues.]

Search for sponsors

What the new statutes say

- Institutional members can only be legal entities that have declared their willingness to contribute substantially and have been admitted to the association as such by the board.

- Donors shall be those who have been admitted as such by the board.

- [...] institutional members and donors are liable to pay an annual contribution, which will be determined by the General Assembly.

- Admitted to the General Assembly are [...] all institutional members. [...] Each member of the Association who is not suspended has one vote.
  ["members" without qualification include "institutional members"]