



WELMEC Newsletter June 2020

21.06.2020

Dear WELMEC colleagues,

Due to the pandemic situation in Europe, we were not able to meet face to face in Berlin in April, let alone hold our regular annual Committee in the usual way. We managed however to hold a webinar on the 23rd April 2020 in replacement and based on the participation and on the feedback received we can say that the event was a success.

Behind the scene, a lot is still going on. Through this Newsletter I want to keep you informed about the latest developments within the association WELMEC e.V.

Secretariat of WELMEC e.V.

Since 1st April 2020 there is a new face in the WELMEC secretariat. As presented at the webinar, Dr. Julia Micklinghoff started her job as Executive Secretary of WELMEC e.V. For the moment and until the end of July, she remains an employee of the PTB and is working under a secondment agreement for WELMEC. During the webinar, I proposed that – given the circumstances – WELMEC e.V. should hire its own staff for the secretariat and carried out an informative poll. All participants answered positively. Subsequently, we organised a formal electronic vote. I am happy to announce, that by the deadline we had received 28 votes, all in favour of the proposed solution. The proposal is thus accepted; WELMEC e.V. will become an employer and offer Julia a contract.

I wish Julia already every success in her new position and look forward to this fruitful collaboration.

I cannot end this paragraph without saying a word on current secretariat. You might remember that WELMEC entered an agreement with EURAMET on secretariat services in 2017. This was the first time, WELMEC had a permanent secretariat. The positive effect of having a standing secretariat cannot be overstated and I take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all persons involved: Jutta Bender, Wolfgang Schmid, Jane Welsch and Vanessa Petrou. Without their continued support, WELMEC would not stand where it does today. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

WELMEC Website

The WELMEC website has been a major concern for a very long time. The technical solution on which the current website is built is no longer supported. So far, we always found a way to extend the support and thus kept the current website as it is. However, this gets more and more complicated. The WELMEC Committee has agreed on a project to revise the website a long time ago. However, due to lack of available resources, the project did not start properly.

With a new person in the secretariat, we are now in a much more comfortable situation. Julia, in tight collaboration with Jutta, has established a workplan for revising totally the website. The aim is to have a new website, by the end of 2020. The objective is ambitious but feasible.

We have already identified a technical solution, where and how to host the new website; Julia has reviewed the content of the current website and made a plan for organisation of the information on the new site; finally, we are in contact with a designer company, to guide us on cooperate design issues. Proposals for a logo are currently discussed in the Executive Board and I am confident that we will soon be able to present the finding to the WELMEC Committee.

Common Landing Page with EURAMET

The collaboration with EURAMET is yet another topic that makes good progress. The WELMEC Committee had agreed on three common strategic objectives with EURAMET. One of them was a common communication and – as a specific action – to work on a common web page. This separate site, now referred to *as Common Landing Page*, should share information to the general public. The idea is to have a separate domain name and to present information such as events or news from WELMEC and from EURAMET in common. From these pages, a visitor might then be directed to either WELMEC or EURAMET, according to his/her interest.

We have identified a small group of people from WELMEC and EURAMET to work on the common Landing Page. Anne Trumpfheller, EURAMET's Communication Officer, has taken the lead of this project. It is very handy to work on these common pages at the same time as on the WELMEC pages. Indeed, we can adapt the techniques on the future WELMEC website to allow sharing of information such as calendars or news.

WELMEC Committee Meeting September 2020

The Covid-crisis forced us to postpone the regular Committee meeting earlier this year. This was even more unfortunate as this year would have been the first WELMEC e.V. general assembly and

maybe the last WELMEC MoU meeting. At the webinar, I announced that we are working on an alternative meeting late summer 2020. In the meantime it has become clear that by then normal operation will not be restored everywhere. It is very likely that some travel restriction will still be in place. On this basis, the Executive Board has taken the decision that the official WELMEC Committee Meeting 2020 will take place by electronics means (video conference). The date has been fixed to 28th and 29th September 2020.

I regret not to be able to announce a face-to-face meeting but under the current circumstances the Executive Board came to the conclusion that it is better to have a clear decision now, rather than plan a meeting which must be cancelled shortly before the event.

Let's stay apart today to meet better in the future!

Best regards,

Gregor Dudle

WELMEC Chairperson