

Event Report

29th EUROGRAPHICS General Assembly

The 29th General Assembly of the EUROGRAPHICS (EG) Association was held at the Creta Maris Conference Centre, Crete, on 17 April 2008, at 18.00. The Chairman, Professor David Duce welcomed the 70 members present.

1. Minutes of the 28th General Assembly

The Minutes of the 28th General Assembly, published in *Computer Graphics Forum*, Vol. 26, No. 4, pp. 860-866 (2007) were accepted.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report

The Chairman gave an annual report of the activities of the Association. He stressed that he was reporting on the work of a large number of people and he thanked them for their work on behalf of the Association and the wider computer graphics community.

3.1. Organization

The Chairman outlined the organizational structure of the Association for the benefit of new members. All members of the Association are entitled to attend the General Meeting. The General Meeting elects 21 members of the Executive Committee, which in turn elects the Officers of the Association (Chairman, two Vice Chairmen, Secretary and Treasurer) and appoints chairs of the Boards of the Association and an Assistant Treasurer. The Boards are responsible for the activities of the Association. The Executive Board is responsible for the operation of the Association between meetings of the Executive Committee and its membership includes the Officers and the Board chairs.

The Executive Committee is responsible for setting policy and strategy; the Boards for the implementation thereof. Policy proposals may arise within the Executive Committee or filter up through the Boards. The National Chapters are also

represented on the Executive Committee and they too make an important contribution to the formulation of policy.

3.2. Workshops Board

The Chairman stressed the importance of the workshop series. The key role of the Association is to provide services to the community to enable the community to organize events with little overhead.

There are nine Working Groups: Animation, Data Visualization, Geometry Processing and Geometric Modelling, Graphics and Cultural Heritage, Hardware, Parallel Graphics, Rendering, Sketch-based Interfaces and Virtual Environments.

Symposia and workshops have been held, or are planned, during 2008 on Computational Aesthetics, Computer Animation (with ACM SIGGRAPH), Visualization (EuroVis with IEEE vgtc), Geometry Processing, Graphics Hardware (with ACM SIGGRAPH), Parallel Graphics, Point-based Graphics (with IEEE vgtc), Rendering, Sketch-based Interfaces and Modelling, VAST Graphics and Cultural Heritage, Virtual Environments, Volume Graphics (with IEEE vgtc). Two workshops on new topics are being held in 2008 on 3D Object Retrieval (held in conjunction with EG 2008) and Visual Computing for Biomedicine (to be held in October 2008). In 2008, two workshops are taking place in April, two in May, four in June, two in July, two in August (in conjunction with ACM SIGGRAPH 2008) and one in October.

The draft programme for 2009 already includes Animation, EuroVis, Geometry Processing, Hardware and Rendering. Other proposals are under discussion with the Workshops Board.

3.3. Publications Board

The Association runs a journal and also produces high-quality proceedings of events.

EG Publishing provides a wide range of services to event organizers including publication, submission and review management and registration and payment. Publications can be produced in print and electronic format (EG Digital library

and CD/DVD). The Submission Review and Management (SRM) system supports an integrated workflow for submission, reviewing and publication. The registration and payment service includes collection and management of payments by credit card, checking EG membership and optional production of delegate badges and delegate lists. Event organizers interested in using these services are invited to contact the Publications Board.

The flagship publication is the journal, *Computer Graphics Forum*; the Editors-in-Chief are Roberto Scopigno and Eduard Gröller. A new Editorial Board structure was introduced in 2008. The journal is jointly owned by the Association and the publisher, Wiley-Blackwell.

At the 2007 General Assembly, it was announced that *Computer Graphics Forum* would be expanding in scope from January 2008 (volume 27) to include the proceedings of three symposia (EuroVis, Geometry Processing and Rendering) and the proceedings of the Pacific Graphics Conference. The Chairman explained that EG will print the new issues for Wiley-Blackwell using the well-established EG Publishing workflow. At the time of the announcement it was anticipated that the journal would move to electronic-only delivery for the publisher's subscriber base. The Chairman announced that the Association had subsequently been informed that due to a change of policy, this would now not be possible.

EG events proceedings have been produced by EG Publishing since 2004. Eleven titles are scheduled for publication in 2008 together with two titles produced in co-operation with ACM SIGGRAPH, four in cooperation with IEEE and three partner events. EG had a distribution agreement with A K Peters Ltd for this series, but unfortunately, for commercial reasons, this agreement has terminated. Instead publications can be ordered through a pre-ordering scheme (which will be accompanied by an altering service) at the EG web site. Printed copies will not, in general, be available after an event.

The Chairman reported that the EG Digital Library continues to grow. Contents include *Computer Graphics Forum*, workshop and conference publications, including state-of-the-art reports, tutorials and short presentations. The proceedings of partner events are also included in the Digital Library. Easy access is provided for members and non-members alike. Downloads of papers have continued to increase and the average in 2007 was 4253 per month (3204 per month in 2007).

The Chairman said that hard-copy reference copies of all EG publications are now held in two locations, FhG-IGD (Darmstadt, Germany) and at the Technical University of Graz (Austria).

3.4. Operations Board

The Chairman explained that the Operations Board looks after membership matters. The number of members in March

2008 was 649, compared to 757 in August 2007 (a decrease of 14.2%). The six top countries are Germany 107, USA 77, Spain 64, UK 56, France 47 and Portugal 45. A total of 61 (9.4%) of the members are student members. The Chairman reminded the General Assembly that 2008 is the first year in which the annual event had been held in the springtime and the first year in which memberships not renewed for the current calendar year had been cancelled in January rather than on 1 July. Membership normally increases prior to workshops and symposia, the majority of which had not opened registration before the census date in March.

There is a high turn-over in membership from year to year and the Chairman encouraged current members to remain members of the Association. Membership, he said, is an indication that one belongs to a community and that one is willing to support what it takes to sustain high-quality publications and high-quality events in the community. He also encouraged members to encourage more organizations to become Organizational Members.

3.5. On-line Board

The On-line Board is responsible for the provision of on-line services to members and to other Boards and Chapters. The Chairman reported that there had been changes to the Web pages for the EG Awards Programme, EG Fellows and chapters, and that the Web site, incorporating the new EG logo, would be re-launched in the near future.

3.6. Professional Board

The Chairman reported that the Professional Board supports the Association's chapters world-wide. He said he was very pleased to announce that an Austrian Chapter would be launched very shortly, bringing the total number of chapters to twelve.

He reported that event co-operations continue to be popular and 11 co-operation agreements were established over the last 6 months.

The Chairman said that the liaison agreement between EG and ACM SIGGRAPH would be due for renewal in September 2008 and there were plans in place to extend the agreement.

3.7. Promotions Board

The Promotions Board has developed a new logo for the Association to reflect the move of the annual event to the springtime. Roll-out of the new look to the Web site and publications is in hand.

3.8. Education Board

The Chairman reported that two education sessions and a panel session were included in the EG 2008 programme, chaired by Steve Cunningham and Lars Kjelldahl. The journal, *Computer Graphics Forum*, includes a book reviews section managed by Toby Howard and Riccardo Scateni. An EG/ACM SIGGRAPH Workshop on education is being planned for EG 2009, in addition to the regular education programme in the conference. Computer Graphics Educational Materials Source (CGEMS), a joint venture of EG/ACM SIGGRAPH, continues to make high-quality educational materials available to the community.

3.9. Fellows

The Chairman stressed the value of the Fellows to the Association. Fellowships are awarded to individuals in recognition of impact on the field and contributions to shaping the Association. David Duce acts as Chairman of the Fellows. Four new Fellows were elected in 2008, Thomas Ertl (University of Stuttgart), Leif Kobbelt (RWTH Aachen University), Isabel Navazo (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya) and László Szirmay-Kalos (Technical University of Budapest). The Chairman said that all had made an impact through their technical contributions and significant service to the community through the Association. The General Assembly congratulated them on their election.

4. Presentation of accounts

The Treasurer, Werner Hansmann, presented the accounts for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007.

4.1. Internal Accounts

The Treasurer explained that he would first present the internal accounts of the Association and then the official accounts. The Euro is the official EG currency and hence the Internal Accounts of the Association have been calculated based on the Euro. As the legal and fiscal seat of the Association are in Switzerland, the Audited Accounts are calculated in Swiss Francs (SFr), but translated to Euro (using the Association's official exchange rate for 2007) for presentation to the General Assembly.

The Internal Accounts show a surplus of 61K Euro compared to a balanced budget. Table 1 reports income and expenditure on the membership account and compares this with the budget for the period, which was agreed by the General Assembly in September 2006.

Notes

- Most boards under-spent their budgets in 2007.
- Some payments, so chapters, are outstanding and will be made in 2008.

Table 1. Internal Accounts 2007.

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income			
Membership fees	119186.97	76000.00	43186.97
Events	18584.31	28000.00	-9415.69
Royalties	27023.88	19000.00	8023.88
Proceedings	12309.62	61000.00	-48690.38
Bookshop	923.72	8000.00	-7076.28
Interest/tax return	7540.43	4000.00	3540.43
	185568.93	196000.00	-10431.07
Expenditure			
Executive Board	7583.36	11000	-3416.64
Professional Board	0.00	3000	-3000.00
Chapters	-12800.00	4.000	-16800.00
Workshop Board	115.70	2000	-1884.30
On-line Board	0.00	3000	-3000.00
Ops – Secretariat	18096.86	23000	-4903.14
Ops – Services	41138.24	35000	6138.24
Ops – Treasurer	5009.57	7000	-1990.43
Ops – Taxation	3071.06	5000	-1928.94
Promotions Board	6146.89	6000	146.89
Education Board	0.00	5000	-5000.00
Bookshop	4832.44	9000	-4167.56
– Workshop & Proceedings	27269.17	60000	-32730.83
– Travel	0.00	3000	-3000.00
– CGF	21970.57	17000	4970.57
Strategic Projects	0.00	2000	-2000.00
Contingency	1940.85	1000	940.85
	124374.71	196000	-71625.29
Surplus/Deficit	61194.22	0.00	61194.22

- Some invoices for publicity materials were carried over from 2007 to 2008; this explains the underspend by the Promotions Board.
- Income overall was close to budget. Income from membership fees was greater than the budget figure. On paper, the surplus was 61K Euro, but a substantial part of this was due to carry over items.

4.2. Audited Accounts

The Auditor's Report is reproduced at the end of these minutes. In these minutes, the accounts are presented in Euro; the official accounts are in SFr and the official EG exchange rate for 2007 has been used for the conversion. The Profit and Loss Account for 2007 is shown in Table 2 and the Balance Sheet in Table 3. There were some small differences between the exchange rates used in the presentation of assets and budgets to the previous General Assembly and to this General Assembly, which resulted in slightly different numbers for the 2007 financial year to those reported previously.

The Treasurer pointed out that there are some differences between the internal and the audited accounts due to the different ways in which exchange rates are handled in the two sets of accounts. In the internal accounts, a fixed exchange

Table 2. Profit and Loss Account (1 January to 31 December 2007) with comparative figures for 2006.

	2006	2007
	Euro	Euro
Income		
Subscriptions	148735.16	118547.78
Repayments on book sales	52866.96	13371.12
Bank interest	1886.17	2895.13
Events	8958.06	11692.19
Royalties et al.	21520.84	27023.99
Exchange difference	11923.28	3439.30
Result on prev. period	1938.05	9487.55
	247828.52	186457.05
Expenditure		
Executive Board	12137.98	7605.31
Professional Board	0.00	0.00
Workshop Board	245.52	115.57
Education	0.00	0.00
Chapters	4172.46	4327.54
Online Board	679.73	700.00
Operational Serv.	41969.53	41129.35
Secretariat	20570.70	18291.60
Treasurer	12792.30	6846.15
Promotions Board	7553.82	3800.79
Bookshop and Publication Board	113533.85	63590.02
Strategic projects	0.00	0.00
Contingency	1001.45	1938.90
Exchange difference	0.00	0.00
	214657.35	147645.23
Result		
Profit or loss for period	33171.17	38811.82

Table 3. Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2007 with comparative figures for 2006.

	2006	2007
Cash	23.99	0.57
Banks	447794.39	427965.20
Federal withholding tax	1010.46	837.72
Account receivable	12011.63	18100.00
EG'05 account	6126.25	0.00
EG'06 account	7285.71	18989.78
	474252.43	465893.27
Liabilities		
Other events	18566.20	11316.75
Accounts payable	68589.39	28667.86
Fortune	387096.83	425908.65
	474252.43	465893.27

rate is used (at on the date of the previous year's General Assembly) whereas in the audited accounts each transaction is converted at a rate close to that on the day of the transaction.

The audited accounts report a surplus of 39K Euro; this includes provisions for carry over items.

For information, Table 4 summarizes the capital and results reported in the audited accounts over recent years. It should

Table 4. Capital Assets 2004 – 2007.

Euro	2004	2005	2006	2007
Capital at year end	390696.55	353925.66	387096.83	425908.65
Surplus/(loss)	38293.13	–36770.89	33171.17	38811.82

be noted that conversions from Swiss Francs to Euro have been made at the 2006 exchange rate rather than historical exchange rates, hence there are slight differences between these figures and those recorded above for 2005 and in previous General Assemblies for previous years.

The Auditor's Report was presented to the General Assembly.

Professor S. Cunningham proposed that the audited accounts be approved, seconded by Dr. P. Bono. The motion was carried, *unanimously*.

5. Appointment of Auditors

Dr. D.J. Duke proposed that Audit & Co. SA of Geneva be appointed auditors for the financial year commencing 1 January 2009. Mrs. J. Brown seconded. The motion was carried *unanimously*.

6. Estimates for 2008

The Treasurer said that it was too early in the year to present meaningful estimates of income and expenditure for the end of the year as this would involve too many assumptions.

7. Membership Subscriptions 2009 and Budget and Forward Look

The Chairman explained that three linked proposals would be made to the General Assembly, subscription fees for 2009, a new discount to encourage employees of Organizational Members to join the Association as Ordinary Members, and the Budget and Forward Look for 2009. He explained that the three proposals would be presented first and then voted upon.

7.1. Membership Subscriptions 2009

The Chairman explained that currently the Association offers three options which differ in the access given to the journal, *Computer Graphics Forum* and to the EG Digital Library (access to the full digital library is included with electronic access to the journal):

- Option 1 – electronic only (70 Euro)

- Option 2 – paper only (regular issues and the EG conference proceedings) (90 Euro)
- Option 3 – paper and electronic access (110 Euro)

The Chairman reminded members that from 2008 the size of the regular issues of the journal is expanding and also the proceedings of four additional events are being included as issues of the journal: Rendering Techniques, Geometry Processing Symposium, EuroVis Symposium and Pacific Graphics.

The Chairman pointed out that the primary membership benefits of the Association are: access to the Digital Library, membership of the community and the opportunity this affords for supporting community activities and discounts on the attendance fees at EG events.

The Chairman said that the following proposal for subscriptions from 2009 would be put to the General Assembly:

- Membership fee (including access to the Digital Library) (70 Euro)
- Student membership fee (including access to the Digital Library) (35 Euro)
- Additional items purchasable on joining the Association or renewing membership:
 - print copies of regular issues of *Computer Graphics Forum* (20 Euro)
 - print copies of ALL issues of *Computer Graphics Forum* (regular issues, EG conference proceedings, Symposia proceedings and Pacific Graphics proceedings) (125 Euro)

He explained that print copies of individual EG event publications (which include the annual event, symposia, Pacific Graphics, workshops and partner events) would be available through the pre-order service at prices in the range 40–45 Euro per item). He also explained that printed copies of proceedings would continue to be provided for those attending events.

In reply to questions from Professor Chalmers and Professor Purgathofer, the Chairman explained that the current discounts for SIGGRAPH members and retired members would remain in force. He also explained that discounts are not cumulative; members may only claim a single discount.

7.2. Discount for staff of Organizational Members

The Chairman explained that the Organizational Membership package entitles one member of staff of the organization to be designated to receive the full benefits of an Ordinary Member, including personal subscriptions to the Digital Library, journal and printed materials, plus the benefits of membership of a community (including the opportunity to hold office). The

Table 5. Budget for 2009 and Forward Look.

(KEuro)	09	10	11	12	13
Income					
Member fees	89	89	89	89	89
Events surplus	22	22	23	23	24
Royalties	16	17	17	18	19
Proceedings	61	61	61	61	61
Bookshop	8	8	8	8	8
Interest/tax return	3	3	3	3	3
	199	200	201	202	204
Expenditure					
Executive Board	11	11	12	12	13
Professional Board	2	2	2	2	2
Workshops Board	2	2	2	2	2
Chapters	5	5	5	5	5
On-line Board	3	3	3	3	3
Operations					
Secretary	22	23	24	25	26
Services	36	37	39	40	42
Treasurer	7	7	8	8	8
Taxation	4	4	4	4	4
Promotions	6	6	6	7	7
Education	4	4	4	4	5
Bookshop	10	10	11	11	11
Publications - CGF	19	19	20	21	21
Publication Proceedings	60	60	60	60	60
Publication travel	2	2	2	2	2
Strategic projects	1	1	1	1	1
Contingency	5	5	5	5	5
	199	201	208	212	217
Surplus/(deficit)	0	-1	-7	-10	-13

Executive Committee wished to encourage members of staff of Organizational Members to become individual Ordinary Members of the Association and would propose a discount of 35 Euro on the membership fee for such persons. This discount would not be cumulative with other discounts.

7.3. Budget and Forward Look

The Treasurer, Werner Hansmann, presented the Budget for 2009 and Forward Look until 2013, shown in Table 5. Figures are KEuro. He explained that the Forward Look beyond 2009 was provisional. The Budget and Forward Look had been discussed by the Executive Committee. Individual Membership levels had been set at the current 630 full, 100 student members and three for each Organizational member. A flat profile was used in the forward look. A modest increase in the number of Organizational Members was assumed. The budget assumed that 70% of members would take electronic only membership, 20% would include a print subscription to the regular issues of the journal and 10% would subscribe to print copies of all issues. A contingency of 5K Euro had been included to cover any additional costs in the transition of the annual event as well as to finance further improvements in the running of the association. For events surplus and book

sales a rather conservative estimate had been used. Board expenditure had been set according to experience gathered in the recent past.

7.4. Votes on the proposals

The proposal for Membership Fees for 2009 (see Section 7.1) was proposed by Professor Klein, seconded by Dr Ducrot and approved *nem con* with one abstention.

The proposal for Discount for Staff of Organizational Members (see Section 7.2) was proposed by Professor Purgathofer, seconded by Professor Brunet and approved *nem con* with two abstentions.

The Budget for 2009 and Forward Look (see Section 7.3) was proposed by Dr Carr, seconded by Dr Duke and approved unanimously.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his efforts on behalf of the Association.

8. Executive Committee Elections

8.1. Results of the 2008 Elections

The Chairman reported that due to some operational difficulties at the start of the year, the election ballot had not started until 15 February 2008 and would close on 15 May 2008. He said that the results would be declared in an email to members and on the Web site as soon as the votes had been counted.

For information, the composition of the Executive Committee for 2008 is reproduced below:

Until 31 December 2008. Cani (3), Fellner (2), Navazo (4), Pulli (5), Rushmeier (6), Skala (5), Wyvill (6).

Until 31 December 2009. Baranoski (6), Brunet (4), Duce (1), Ertl (2), Gröller (5), Klein (2), O'Sullivan (1).

Until 31 December 2010. Coquillart (3), Duke (1), Gross (3), Heidrich (6), Müller (2), Scopigno (3), Seidel (2).

The numbers in brackets after each name indicate the region to which the member belongs.

The composition of the electoral regions, approved by the General Assembly in 2005, is given below.

1. United Kingdom, Ireland.
2. Germany.
3. Italy, Switzerland, France, Monaco, Malta.
4. Spain, Portugal, Andorra.
5. All other European countries.
6. All non-European countries.

Table 6. *Executive Board 2008.*

Chairman	D.A. Duce
Vice-Chairs	R. Scopigno T. Ertl
Secretary	C.E. Vandoni
Treasurer	W. Hansmann
Asst. Treasurer	F. Melero Rus
Education Board	I. Navazo
Executive Board	D.A. Duce
Operations Board	C.E. Vandoni
On-line Board	M. Magnor
Workshops Board	H. Müller
Publication Board	D. Fellner
Promotions Board	C. O'Sullivan
Professional Board	N. John
Strategic issues	D.A. Duce

8.2. Appointment of Nominating Committee

The Chairman explained that the General Assembly appoints two members to a Nominating Committee whose function is to nominate candidates for the Executive Committee elections. The Executive Committee also appoints two members, and had already appointed Professors W. Heidrich and M. Gross.

Professors A. Chalmers and X. Pueyo were elected by acclaim to represent the General Assembly.

9. Executive Board 2009

The Chairman explained that since the Executive Committee elections for 2009 had not yet closed, the Executive Committee would appoint the Executive Board for 2009 at their meeting in November 2009. This would be announced to the membership by email and through the Web site in due course.

For information, the composition of the Executive Board for 2008 is reproduced below (see Table 6).

The Chairman thanked all the Board members for their work during the year.

10. Future conferences

The Chairman announced that the 2009 conference would take place in Munich (Garching Campus) from 30 March to 3 April 2009. This will be jointly organized by TU Munich and the universities of Erlangen-Nuremberg and Stuttgart.

He said that the Executive Committee had selected a bid from Sweden as the preferred bid for 2010 and that the Monitoring Officer and the Conference Steering Committee would be working with the bidders to bring the event to fruition.

Table 7. *Election results.*

Candidate	Region	Votes	
Dodgson	1	34	
Dutré	5	43	Elected
Fellner	2	77	Elected
Hauser	5	42	
Luebke	6	40	
Möller	6	47	Elected
Navazo	4	62	Elected
Puppo	3	41	
Roberts	1	27	
Skala	5	46	Elected
De Sousa	4	29	
Szirmay-Kalos	5	51	Elected
Wyvill	6	61	Elected
Ynnerman	5	36	

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held during EG 2009 in Munich on Thursday 2nd April 2009.

12. Any other business

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 19.05.

Addendum

The results of the Executive Committee elections were declared on 20 May 2008 (see Table 7). There was one regional vacancy in region 4 and one in region 5.

Those elected commence their 3 year terms of office on 1st January 2009.

The composition of the Executive Committee for 2009 will be:

Until 31 December 2009. Baranoski (6), Brunet (4), Duce (1), Ertl (2), Gröller (5), Klein (2), O'Sullivan (1).

Until 31 December 2010. Coquillart (3), Duke (1), Gross (3), Heidrich (6), Müller (2), Scopigno (3), Seidel (2).

Until 31 December 2011. Dutré (5), Fellner (2), Möller (6), Navazo (4), Skala (5), Szirmay-Kalos (5), Wyvill (6).

The numbers in brackets after each name indicate the region to which the member belongs.