



FraMCoS-8 Financial Report

This is a report on the finances of the 8th Int. Conference of Fracture Mechanics for Concrete and Concrete Structures, FraMCoS-8, held in the *Fábrica de Armas* Campus of the University of Castilla-La Mancha at Toledo, Spain, during March 10-14, 2013. It includes financial information on the FraMCoS-8 Workshop on Nanotechnology and Sustainability in Construction that was held in the same venue on March 15, 2013. A brief statement of the financial situation at the beginning of the Conference was given to the Board of Directors of the IA-FraMCoS in the meeting held at Hilton Buenavista Hotel, Toledo, Spain, on March 10, 2013, which was reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

The rest of the document explains briefly each of the items corresponding to income and to expenses in the report. Finally we present the income/expenses statement with the amounts matching to each item.

Income

Regular fees

The regular Conference fee was fixed as 600€, although a 50€ discount was offered to IA-FraMCoS members (anybody that had participated in any previous FraMCoS Conference), ESIS, RILEM, EuraSEM and IBRACON members. Free registrations were offered to plenary speakers, some IA-FraMCoS directors and members of the LOC.

Student fees

It had been decided to foster graduate students participation by offering a substantially reduced fee for them, finally fixed as 300€; 74 students benefited from this reduced fee (the rest of the students registered were Conference assistants and had free registration).

Workshop fees

The fee to attend the workshop was 90€ for the Conference participants and 180€ for others. Regrettably, there were very few paying participants other than Conference delegates. We were expecting around 120 workshop attendees, but finally we only had 48 who paid the fee.

Sponsorship

Regarding the sponsorship, we raised 12.800€ from companies interested in advertising their products among the delegates. It was hard to get funds from companies due to the economic crisis that is hitting Spain. Likewise, we did not get any financial aid from the Spanish Government at any level, while before the crisis it was customary to help with grants of as much as 20.000€ to international conferences like ours.

Expenses

Organization

We entrusted most of the organizational aspects of the Conference to *CIMNE Congresos*, a Company of the Int. Center of Numerical Methods in Engineering, CIMNE, located in Barcelona, Spain. It provided and operated the FraMCoS-8 Website, did all the registration paperwork (both before the Conference and on-site) and managed the proceedings publication. We also hired two conference specialists to manage the local aspects of the Conference organization. Besides, a group of UCLM students were recruited to assist while the Conference was running. Most of them were graduate students in the Civil Eng. School in Ciudad Real who also were interested in participating in the Conference; that is why they needed accommodation in Toledo. We also

purchased the framcos8.org domain plus a massive e-mail provider service to directly communicate with IA-FraMCoS members and other potential attendees to the Conference. Another organizational expense comprises the two preparatory meetings held by the organizers: the first one was held in May 2011 in Ciudad Real, Spain, since the UCLM Campus there was originally proposed as venue for the Conference; the second one took place in Feb. 2013 in Toledo, to check all the facilities that were going to be used during the Conference and to prepare the Board meetings. The figure in the report corresponding to this item does not include any travel expenses. Finally, the bank used by CIMNE to operate the Conference Budget charged some fees.

Book and CD of Proceedings

As aforementioned, the publication was managed by CIMNE. It should be mentioned that all the payments to the printing shop were postponed until the end of May since, after the Conference, we realized that the quality of some of the figures of the e-book that had been included in the CD was not as good as that of the original papers (which were also in the CD and could be checked as individual papers). The reason for that was that the printing shop had run some programs to downsize the final e-book, whereas the individual papers were keeping the original figures. We were not happy with this and, so, we asked the printing shop to deliver the e-book with good quality figures. Doing this took more time than we expected, since they had not kept the original and so they had to compose the book again. After checking and correcting the typos (specially regarding the page numbering), we finally got the e-book with correct figures. This is why we up-loaded the e-book to the web-site and sent an e-mail only to the people who attended the Conference so that they could down-load the full e-book with good quality figures. Only then we gave the order of payment.

Printed material: Program, posters, badges

The programs and the badges were done by the same printing shop that printed the Proceedings. The posters were done by a local one in Ciudad Real.

Conference bags + gift

We decided to give a practical but inexpensive bag to deliver the Conference Proceedings and related material. Likewise, we thought that a small cheese from La Mancha was going to be appreciated by the delegates. Many people did like it.

Coat hangers

The UCLM did not provide coat hangers for the rooms and, so, we had to hire some.

Meals

Venta de Aires Restaurant, which is very renowned in Toledo, provided the lunches during the Conference. We wanted to offer a good quality lunch to our delegates in spite that including lunches in the fee is not customary in FraMCoS Conferences. We also wanted to offer good and abundant stuff during coffee-breaks, which were served by the Campus Cafeteria. The Conference dinner was served in the *Cigarral de las Mercedes*, which is the finest place close to Toledo.

Social program: Concert & flyers

This expense includes the payment to the Quintet that performed the concert in the *Iglesia de San Pedro Mártir* plus the flyers that were printed with the Concert Program and a map to locate the place.

Invited speakers

Plenary speakers were paid for their accommodation at Hilton Buenavista Hotel. Besides, as said before, their Conference fees were waived. The Conference did not pay for their travel expenses.

UCLM share

The staff of the *Fábrica de Armas* Campus provided an excellent service to the Conference. We used four rooms, including the *Envases de Cartón* Auditorium, plus Building nº1 for the coffee-breaks. Likewise, UCLM let us use the *Iglesia de San Pedro Mártir* for the Concert.

Workshop

The expenses mirror the ones for the Conference but at a lower scale. Please, note that we prepared stuff for more people than it was finally necessary since we were expecting a higher attendance.

IA-FraMCoS share

This item includes some expenses done on behalf of the IA. On the one hand, the dinner of the two Board meetings held at the Hilton Buenavista Hotel; on the other hand, the web-site for the IA-FraMCoS, which was ready to be released right after the Conference. Please, note that this web-site project had been already discussed in Jeju and during the preparatory meetings for the Conference. An item on it was included in the first Board meeting in Toledo and, subsequently, I reported on it to the Board. Nevertheless, the current IA President also started a web-site for the IA and, right after the Conference, he decided to go on with it and to be the web manager himself. Regrettably, I had already incurred in hiring a professional web-designer for the original project whose wages were 1.800€. Finally, a direct share of 2.200€ can be wired to the IA.

Final remarks

The figures in this report attest to our transparency in the organization of the Conference. The report also evidences that FraMCoS-8 LOC decided to go for an excellent Conference that could be affordable for many in spite of the economic difficulties stemming from the ongoing crisis. We are quite happy with the results and with many grateful commentaries sent by delegates once back at home. We are proud that we served our scientific community.

June 30, 2013



Gonzalo Ruiz

Professor of Materials Science and Applied Mechanics
 FraMCoS-8 LOC Chair / IA-FraMCoS Secretary
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 fax int + 34 + 926 295 391
 Gonzalo.Ruiz@uclm.es

FraMCoS-8 Financial Statement

INCOME (in €)		148.775
Regular fees	109.275	
Student fees	22.200	
Workshop fees	4.500	
Sponsorship	12.800	
EXPENSES (in €)		148.775
Organization		
CIMNE	16.645	
Local secretaries (job contracts)	15.800	
Conference assistants: Scholarships & accomodation	17.800	
Conference domain and group-emailing tools	500	
Organizers preparatory meetings (May 2011 & Feb 2013)	1.900	
Bank expenses	2.960	
Book and CD of Proceedings	10.850	
Printed material: Program, badges, posters	3.100	
Conference bags + gift	4.100	
Coat hangers	670	
Meals		
Welcome cocktail	6.020	
Lunches	15.770	
Coffee breaks	10.200	
Conference dinner & bus transportation	13.150	
Social program: Concert & flyers	2.440	
Invited speakers	4.800	
UCLM share	9.185	
Workshop		
Speakers (remuneration & hotel)	3.752	
Book and CD of Proceedings	2.187	
Printed material: Program, badges, posters	572	
Conference bags	223	
Meals	1.050	
IA-FraMCoS share		
Board meetings	1.100	
Web page	1.800	
Direct share	2.200	

June 30, 2013

NOTA INTERNA	FECHA: 11 de diciembre de 2013
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DE: Fernando Sánchez-Molina Calvo.

EJECUTIVO UNIDAD DE GESTIÓN ECONÓMICA DE CAMPUS

A: Juan Rodríguez de Guzmán Ruiz Valdepeñas

DIRECTOR DE LA UNIDAD DE TESORERIA

ASUNTO: PAGOS AL EXTERIOR.

Adjunto le remito Propuesta de Adquisición al Exterior, Solicitud de Pagos al Exterior y copia de la factura, para que proceda a solicitar transferencia por la cantidad expresada en la misma.

RESPONSABLE	ORGÁNICA	EMPRESA	IMPORTE MONEDA	Nº EXPEDIENTE
GONZALO RUIZ	██████████	IA-FraMCoS	2.200.-€	S██████████

Fernando Sánchez-Molina Calvo.

EJECUTIVO UNIDAD DE GESTIÓN ECONÓMICA DE CAMPUS

ANEXO II**Solicitud de Pagos al Exterior**

Fecha miércoles, 11 de diciembre de 2013	Oficina 2044 CIUDAD REAL
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☐ CHEQUE

Marcar con X lo solicitado

☒ TRANSFERENCIA**MUY IMPORTANTE:**☐ En transferencias marcar esta casilla si debe llegar a destino el importe íntegro (gasto OUR)**Datos del Ordenante**

Nombre y Apellidos UNIVERSIDAD DE CASTILLA-LA MANCHA	N.I.F. [REDACTED]	
Domicilio ALTAGRACIA, 50		
Localidad y País CIUDAD REAL. ESPAÑA	Clave Entidad [REDACTED]	Clase y Número de la Cuenta [REDACTED]

Datos del Beneficiario

Nombre y Apellidos IA-FraMCoS	
Domicilio del Beneficiario NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, TECH BOULDING ROOM A125	
Localidad y País del Beneficiario EVANSTON, IL 60208-3109, ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA	
Banco CHASE BANK	Clase y Número de la Cuenta SWIFT CODE: ChasUS33 ROUTING: 071000013 [REDACTED]
Divisa e Importe 2.200.-€	En letra DOS MIL DOSCIENTOS EUROS
Concepto del Pago (sólo si es superior a 3.000 Euros.).	
Partida Estadística Arancelaria	

El ordenante del pago al exterior está obligado a declarar el concepto que lo origina. Para los pagos por importación de mercancías, asimismo debe facilitarse la partida estadística arancelaria.

Los firmantes declaran, bajo su responsabilidad, que los datos consignados en la presente declaración son ciertos, quedando advertidos que la falsedad en los mismos implica la comisión de una infracción administrativa, sancionable conforme al artículo 10 de la Ley 40/1979 de Régimen Jurídico del Control de Cambios.

Se formula la presente solicitud con la expresa orden de que sean cargados en mi / nuestra cuenta arriba indicada el nominal de la orden más las comisiones y gastos.

Será de aplicación el epígrafe 3.º de la "TARIFA DE COMISIONES, CONDICIONES Y GASTOS APLICABLES A CLIENTES POR OPERACIONES Y SERVICIOS EN MONEDA EXTRANJERA" notificada al Banco de España y que se encuentra en todas las oficinas de CCM a disposición de los clientes. Cuando se firme la presente solicitud para prestar conformidad al pago de un efecto a cargo del cliente, será de aplicación el epígrafe 10º.

Firma del Ordenante

Firma y Sello de la Oficina

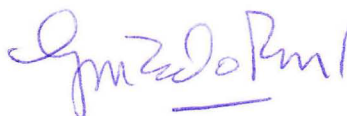
SE 6706

Modelo de Memoria explicativa del gasto
(concepto 226)

D. Gonzalo Ruiz López, responsable de la Orgánica [REDACTED], informa que el cargo adjunto de la factura con número: 1 con fecha 10/12/2013 de IA-FraMCoS con un importe de 2.200.-€ corresponde al pago de la cuota a la Asociación Internacional FraMCoS por la organización del congreso FraMCoS-8 el pasado marzo de 2013 en Toledo, España.

El cargo se hará en la Orgánica arriba mencionada

El responsable del gasto



Gonzalo Ruiz López

Ciudad Real a 11 de diciembre de 2013

IA-FraMCoS**INVOICE**

Northwestern University
Tech Building Room A125
2145 N Sheridan Rd
Evanston, IL 60208-3109
Tel: (847) 491-4027
Registration # 56634495

INVOICE #1
DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2013

TO:

Gonzalo Ruiz López
ETSI Caminos, C. y P.
Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha
Avda. Camilo José Cela s/n
13071 Ciudad Real, Spain
[REDACTED]

FOR:

FraMCoS-8 conference fee

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
FraMCoS-8 Conference Fee	EURO 2,200
Data for Bank Transfer:	
Chase Bank	
1200 Central Avenue Wilmette, IL 60091 (800) 935-9935	
Routing # 071000013 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
TOTAL	EURO 2,200

Comments concerning FraMCoS-8 Financial Statement

1. IA-FraMCoS Share

- (1) As usual the Financial Statement is subdivided into Income and Expenses. The share for IA-FraMCoS amounting €5.100 ranges under Expenses.
- (2) It is certainly justified to have the expenses for IA-FraMCoS Board meetings and the direct share included in the IA-FraMCoS share.
- (3) However, it is questionable, if the cost for the web page should range under IA-FraMCoS share. At this moment there exist two web pages: www.framcos8.org and www.framcos.org.
www.framcos8.org has been set up for the organization of FraMCoS-8 and in this sense it has been successful. After a certain period it can be closed again although it has served a good purpose for a while. It may be expected that a new web page for FraMCoS-9 will be set up by the new president or the organizers (this specific webpage ought to be linked with the general IA-FraMCoS webpage, of course). It may also be added in this context that setting up a simple web page today can easily be done free of charge by a student of the team concerned.
www.framcos.org in contrast has been set up to serve the International Association IA-FraMCoS and it should maintain continuity.
- (4) Based on these arguments expenses for setting up the web page should not be included in the IA-FraMCoS share. As a consequence the IA-FraMCoS share should be reduced to be €3.300. This amount is clearly far below the expectations.
- (5) The two awards for all together €2.000 have been presented by IA-FraMCoS not by the LOC of FraMCoS-8. That means it is correct that they do not appear in the Financial Statement of Gonzalo Ruiz. The selection process of future IA-FraMCoS awards and the question who pays the fee must be discussed by the Board and fixed in detail in the Conference Manual.
- (6) IA-FraMCoS should present its own financial statement with Income and Expenditures at the end of a conference in the future.

2. Comments on the Expenditure of FraMCoS-8

- (1) It is difficult if not impossible at this moment to discuss further details of the list of expenses as the money is paid. However it may be mentioned that, the expenses for CIMNE (€16.645) seem to be very high and the expenses for local secretariat (€15,800) and conference assistants(€17,800) are rather unusual. These services are provided by many universities free of charge. A substantial amount has been also paid to UCLM (€9.185) instead.
- (2) Therefore, it is recommended that the organizers of FraMCoS-8 revisit each item of the above mentioned expenditures, especially those mentioned in item 2(1)of this report. If possible, the organizers should try to find ways to reduce the above mentioned amounts substantially. In this way the amount expected from IA-FraMCoS may finally be transferred.

3. Summary and Recommendation

- (1) To avoid a similar situation in the future, we suggest that clear rules must be established and made available in a comprehensive conference Manual to future candidates for presidency by the Board of IA-FraMCoS as soon as possible. Future

presidents must know details of the rules of the game before they accept the task.

- (2) In particular we suggest that organizers of future conferences transfer automatically a fixed amount and not just the left-overs, let us say €40(or US \$ 50) per registered participant, to the account of IA-FraMCoS. This fixed amount can be considered at the same time to be the membership fee for members of IA-FraMCoS.
- (3) In case there will be a surplus in the final financial statement of a coming IA-FraMCoS conference, the corresponding amount should be transferred to the IA-FraMCoS account.
- (4) It is recommended that the use of professional conference managers, paid assistants and secretaries or event companies should be avoided or minimized to reduce expenses for a scientific conference. During previous conferences including FraMCoS-7, the organizers and their team served without additional cost to prepare and to run the conferences successfully.
- (5) The conference organizers should try to get external funding from the corresponding university, research foundations, and similar units, if possible.

July 6, 2013, the Auditors of IA-FraMCoS

Folker H. Wittmann



Byung Hwan Oh





Answers to the Auditors comments concerning the FraMCoS-8 Financial Report

This document discusses the 'Comments concerning FraMCoS-8 Financial Statement' prepared by the IA-FraMCoS Auditors, Profs. Wittmann and Oh. Firstly, we would like to thank them for taking some time in going through the 'FraMCoS-8 Financial Report'. For sure our report and their commentaries would be useful for future conference organizers.

The rest of the document goes through their 'Comments...' as they put them. For the sake of completeness, we reproduce them item by item and our discussion follows them one by one.

1. IA-FraMCoS Share

- (1) *As usual the Financial Statement is subdivided into Income and Expenses. The share for IA-FraMCoS amounting € 5.100 ranges under Expenses.*

This is correct. The currency exchange rate between the Euro and the US Dollar is of 1.3106 as of today, which makes a share of 6.684\$.

- (2) *It is certainly justified to have the expenses for IA-FraMCoS Board meetings and the direct share included in the IA-FraMCoS share.*

We do think likewise. Besides, these meetings were carefully prepared during the preparatory meeting that took place in Toledo in Feb. 2013. All the Organizers and members of the LOC were present and it was assumed that the meetings were going to generate expenses to the IA.

- (3) *However, it is questionable, if the cost for the web page should range under IAFraMCoS share. At this moment there exist two web pages: www.framcos8.org and www.framcos.org. www.framcos8.org has been set up for the organization of FraMCoS-8 and in this sense it has been successful. After a certain period it can be closed again although it has served a good purpose for a while. It may be expected that a new web page for FraMCoS-9 will be set up by the new president or the organizers (this specific webpage ought to be linked with the general IA-FraMCoS webpage, of course). It may also be added in this context that setting up a simple web page today can easily be done free of charge by a student of the team concerned. www.framcos.org in contrast has been set up to serve the International Association IA-FraMCoS and it should maintain continuity.*

The costs related to the Conference web-page, www.framcos8.org, are not in this item but in 'Organization. CIMNE' since it was CIMNE Congressos that developed it. For the record, it costed 1.950€, amount included in the 16.645€ charged by CIMNE.

The item "IA-FraMCoS share. Web page" corresponds to the IA-FraMCoS web site that was developed for the IA, as explained in the 'FraMCoS-8 Financial Report'. Let me remind that this web-site project had been already discussed in Jeju and during the preparatory meetings for the Conference, specially the one that took place in Toledo in Feb. 2013. As already mentioned, all the Organizers and members of the LOC were present there and it was assumed that the web-site project was going to generate some expenses to the IA, since it was a professional one. Besides, the Board was informed on this project during the first Board meeting in Toledo.

Regarding whether a student can be told to do a web-page for the Conference / IA or not, this may depend on how simple the page is to be, the availability of a student with such skills and on whether we agree that a student has to be considered as free labor for anything. Besides, there is a noticeable difference between professional and amateur web-pages.

- (4) *Based on these arguments expenses for setting up the web page should not be included in the IA-FraMCoS share. As a consequence the IA-FraMCoS share should be reduced to be € 3.300. This amount is clearly far below the expectations.*

As said above, the Auditors incorrectly assumed that the share was including the Conference web-site, which is not the case. The expenditure regarding the IA-Web site was done on behalf of the IA and we think that it should thus be accounted within the share. Having this in mind, the share of the IA is of 6.684\$ (calculated with today's exchange rate).

As regards to the expectations for the share, we would have liked to contribute more to the IA. Nevertheless, we decided to set a quite reduced fee, especially for students, looking for an ample attendance. Besides, we gave the best available service —lunches, coffee-breaks etc— so that all delegates could left Toledo happy that their fee was well employed on their benefit. Moreover, the ongoing crisis —which is hitting Spain badly, as you may know— made it quite difficult to get funds from sponsors, as stated in our report. We also should mention that, regrettably, the Conference Workshop, which very well could be considered an IA-FraMCoS activity, did not do very well from the economical point of view (in spite it was excellent from a scientific standpoint). All in all, we are proud that we still are able to contribute to the IA.

- (5) *The two awards for all together € 2.000 have been presented by IA-FraMCoS not by the LOC of FraMCoS-8. That means it is correct that they do not appear in the Financial Statement of Gonzalo Ruiz. The selection process of future IA-FraMCoS awards and the question who pays the fee must be discussed by the Board and fixed in detail in the Conference Manual.*

Please, remember that the fact that awards are to be paid by the IA was already discussed and approved during the first Board meeting in Toledo. It was Victor Saouma who made a motion to have this item approved. In passing, it looks that the Auditors are not just commenting our Report, since it does not mention those awards at all. It was assumed that the IA pays for the awards, as decided by the Board. Besides, it should be reminded that there is another award approved in Toledo for the best yearly doctoral thesis in our field, proposed by Jan van Mier.

- (6) *IA-FraMCoS should present its own financial statement with Income and Expenditures at the end of a conference in the future.*

It definitely has to be so. For long years the IA has not had any expenses, which is obviously a symptom of inactivity, whereas the only income came from the Conferences. It does not make any sense that the IA accumulates money endlessly while being inactive.

2. Comments on the Expenditure of FraMCoS-8

- (1) *It is difficult if not impossible at this moment to discuss further details of the list of expenses as the money is paid. However it may be mentioned that, the expenses for CIMNE (€ 16.645) seem to be very high and the expenses for local secretariat (€ 15,800) and conference assistants (€17,800) are rather unusual. These services are provided by many universities free of charge. A substantial amount has been also paid to UCLM (€ 9.185) instead.*

CIMNE Congresos organizes many first-class conferences per year in a very professional fashion, as can be checked in their web-page: www.cimne.com/web3/congresos.asp. This means that it is not only us that have entrusted them with the administrative aspects of the organization of a conference. We do not know on what basis the Auditors affirm that their services are expensive, other than their own experience. Regarding FraMCoS Conferences, to our knowledge it is FraMCoS-8 the only one that has presented a complete financial report and, so, it is not possible to compare with previous ones.

Likewise, we do not know why is it that the Auditors think that having conference assistants and compensating them for their work and for their expenses is *unusual*. We thought it is the usual way of doing things but, again, no comparison can be made with previous conferences.

Regarding the UCLM share, it has to be understood that UCLM is almost broken due to the crisis in Spain. Being a public University, UCLM is not even getting enough money from the Government to pay for the salaries of its employees and, so, it is forced to get money from wherever they can. Nevertheless, in spite of such very critical situation, UCLM provided superb facilities and a very good service at a reasonable price. In passing we should mention that such price was not obtained without a fierce negotiation with UCLM officials that started in unaffordable figures. Finally, we do not know whether there are universities that lend their facilities for free. Ours does not do so anymore.

- (2) *Therefore, it is recommended that the organizers of FraMCoS-8 revisit each item of the above mentioned expenditures, especially those mentioned in item 2(1) of this report. If possible, the organizers should try to find ways to reduce the above mentioned amounts substantially. In this way the amount expected from IAFraMCoS may finally be transferred.*

It should be understood that the 'FraMCoS-8 Financial Report' is not an estimate, nor a provisional report, like the one presented to the Board during the first meeting in Toledo. It refers to actual income and actual expenses, i.e. what is already earned or spent cannot be '*revisited*' in any way. Such '*re-visitation*' is by no means possible.

3. Summary and Recommendation

- (1) *To avoid a similar situation in the future, we suggest that clear rules must be established and made available in a comprehensive conference Manual to future candidates for presidency by the Board of IA-FraMCoS as soon as possible. Future presidents must know details of the rules of the game before they accept the task.*

We do not quite get what is the situation the Auditors are referring to which should be avoided in the future. In case they refer to a low share for the IA we hope that our explanations above have made them change their minds so that there is no '*situation*' anymore. We did our best to organize FraMCoS-8 efficiently, to welcome each delegate warmly and to create a frame that could stimulate interesting discussions and favor the formation of new contacts. We also managed our budget responsibly while targeting the satisfaction of our delegates prior to engrossing the IA bank account. Many delegates appreciated that and sent us sincere thank-you messages once back at home.

Regarding the '*Manual...*', we do support establishing such clear rules for running the IA and the Conference. We were not given any.

- (2) *In particular we suggest that organizers of future conferences transfer automatically a fixed amount and not just the left-overs, let us say € 40 (or US \$ 50) per registered participant, to the account of IA-FraMCoS. This fixed amount can be considered at the same time to be the membership fee for members of IA-FraMCoS.*

Similar proposals to this one were made by Board members before FraMCoS-8 (by e-mail) and during the meetings in Toledo. We would support such a procedure.

- (3) *In case there will be a surplus in the final financial statement of a coming IA-FraMCoS conference, the corresponding amount should be transferred to the IA-FraMCoS account.*

This is exactly what has happened with FraMCoS-8 (no info from previous ones). Besides, it would be more complete to define what would happen if a conference loses money.

- (4) *It is recommended that the use of professional conference managers, paid assistants and secretaries or event companies should be avoided or minimized to reduce the expenses for a scientific conference. During previous conferences including FraMCoS-7, the organizers and their team served without additional cost to prepare and to run the conferences successfully.*

According to our experience, we would strongly recommend to leave administrative and organizational aspects of the conference in the hands of professionals. We are quite satisfied with the professional assistance we got for FraMCoS-8 and we would not label it as 'expensive'.

We also have to state that neither FraMCoS-8 organizers nor LOC main members charged even a cent for their dedication to the Conference, as can be deduced from the report; only assistants were compensated for their hard work and for the expenses they incurred in. We believe this is the right way of proceeding.

As for previous conferences, there was no financial information and, so, we do not think that they can be posed as a reference.

- (5) *The conference organizers should try to get external funding from the corresponding university, research foundations, and similar units, if possible.*

This is exactly what we did. Please, see our reiterated comments on this above and in the Report.

July 18, 2013