

IEA Council Meeting 2022: Report of Vice-President and Secretary General VPSG

Dr Margaret Graf EurErg.

The first year of a VPSG is probably always marked by a lot of learning how things work and trying to get up to date with everything that is happening within the IEA and its many working groups. I have had to rely heavily on the experience of Kathy Mosier and José Orlando Gomes as well as our previous office administrator, Lynn Strother. Many thanks to them and to all the members of the IEA Executive, who have always been patient and helpful. It is really a pleasure to work in this group.

The following points sum up what has taken most of my energy during this period:

1. The establishment of the IEA webinar series.

Following two pilot webinars organized by the previous VPSG, Sara Albolino, the new Executive made the decision to offer webinars on a regular basis, using the resources of the Technical Committees and other volunteers. This has been a great success, with at least one webinar per month since the beginning of the year and more exciting ones in the pipeline.

2. Hiring a new IEA Office Administrator

The retirement of Lynn Strother required us to find a replacement. Fortunately, we were able to secure the services of Aleksandra Gamper, who has a family connection to HFE and knew of our work. She has proven to be an invaluable asset and I thank her for her commitment, helpfulness, and cheery smiles.

3. Getting and keeping the information on the IEA website up to date and regular news items published.

This work is coordinated with our NewsBriefs Editor, Sma Ngcama-Tukulula, and the increasing help of Aleksandra, but it has also needed a lot of assistance from Takashi Kawai and our website host contact, Kian Leong. Thanks to these committed and enthusiastic people as well. You will hear about the interactive elements of the Members area at the Council meeting.

4. Organising meetings and getting to know the software that we are using to assist us.

The IEA Executive met in online meetings in November and again in April. This is my first Council meeting. There are meetings of various working groups that need to be coordinated around the world and often quite a lot of emails to read and answer, also from the contact boxes of the website.

5. Preparing the IEA Business Plan and various other strategy documents.

The work on the Business Plan will be reported on separately in the Council meeting. The work with the other officers on strategy development will be reported by José and Andrew Todd.

6. Last but not least, external liason.

We work closely with several international organizations, notably the WHO and ILO, and these sometimes require reading reports and giving comment, or attending online meeting. This needs to be coordinated with others, such as Michelle Robertson, Kathy Mosier and Jonathon Davy, who share this work. More recently, I have been assisting José and Yushi Fujita to set up an ad hoc Committee to coordinate and improve our involvement with the International Standards Organisation ISO.

Current figures:

The IEA has 52 federated members distributed around the world plus 2 affiliated members.

3 in Africa

13 in Asia (with 1 affiliate)

23 in Europe

9 in Latin America (with 1 affiliate)

2 in Anglo America

2 in Oceania

These are 5 regional networks (Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Africa) and 1 inter-regional network (BRICS+). The Nordic Ergonomics Society is also representative of a regional network for Scandinavia but is not formally recognized as a network at present.

There are 6 Standing Committees, with various sub-committees and ad hoc working groups, and 25 Technical Committees.

The IEA has endorsed 8 certification bodies for HFE professionals, on 5 continents.