

**51st EMS Council Session**

29 August 2023, online

Minutes of 13 October 2023

**adopted**

**Participants:** (voting councillors underlined)

Meda Andrei (SMA, Romania)

Liz Bentley, RMetS

Dick Blaauboer (Chair EMS Committee on Meetings, 2022 – 2025)

Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia; also Chair Media and Communication Committee)

Rainer Dominik (Vaisala, representing group of manufactures Ass. Members)

Bert Holtslag (EMS President)

Martina Junge (EMS Executive Secretary)

Stella Kafka (AMS Executive Director; guest)

Shanti Majithia (RMetS, United Kingdom)

Dominique Marbouty (Météo et Climat, France)

Umberto Modigliani (ECMWF)

Gudrun Nina Petersen (VeF, Iceland)

Ernesto Rodriguez Camino (AME, Spain)

Johannes Schmetz (Chair JEMS Working Group)

Heinke Schlünzen (DMG, Germany)

Dennis Schulze (Ass. Member group service providers)

Gert-Jan Steeneveld (NVBM, The Netherlands)

Paulína Valová (observer for SMS, Slovakia)

Joanna Wibig (PTG – Met. Section, Poland)

The Session opened at 13:30h and closed at 16:30h.

Chair: Bert Holtslag, EMS President

Minutes: Martina Junge

**1. Opening of the 51st Session, acceptance of the agenda and declaration of AOB items**

The EMS President opened the 51st Session of the EMS Council by welcoming all participants to this meeting. With **ten** Council representatives present the necessary quorum of seven was attained. Votes are given as (acceptance: rejection: abstention).

A proposal for the agenda was distributed with the invitation to attend the Council meeting. The agenda was accepted (**Annex A**). No additional items were declared for the agenda item AOB at this stage.

**2. Implementation of decisions taken at the 50th Session of the EMS Council**

*Paper provided: C51\_03\_implementation-of-C50-decisions-and-actions* (part II – Annexes)

The draft minutes of the 50th Session of the EMS Council have been distributed to all participants of that meeting. Revisions that were submitted to the Executive Secretary within four weeks after distribution have been implemented after review by the President. The minutes were subsequently held adopted (Rules of procedure 58.2) and distributed to EMS Members; they are available from <https://www.emetsoc.org/about-ems/council/council-meetings/>. Most decisions and actions had been implemented.

The proposal for the terms of a new EMS Media award had been put to vote by correspondence and the result is recorded in these minutes:

**C51.01 EMS Communicating Weather & Climate Award:** The Council adopted the terms of reference for the new EMS Communicating Weather & Climate Award as provided in **Annex C**. (Votes: 10:0:0 – *vote by correspondence June 2023*)

With this new award, the Media Weather Forecast Award and the Broadcast Meteorologist Award are taken out of the portfolio of EMS Media awards.

### 3. Report of the Bureau

*Paper provided: 51\_03\_report-president-and-bureau (part II – Annexes)*

The EMS President reported on his activities since the last Council Session, which included involvement in the development of an EMS Journal (item 8), representing the EMS on the selection committee for the Sergej Zilitinkevich award, and giving welcome addresses at two international meetings (virtually) on behalf of the EMS.

Vice-President Dominique Marbouty gave an update on the discussions of the Strategy Monitoring Group, and work on the further development of vision and mission statements.

A short discussion raised the following points about the vision and mission:

- ensure consistency with our current mission statement and the EMS constitution;
- keep the text short and punchy;
- avoid repetitions or redundancies;
- emphasise actual main EMS activities (present and foreseen)

The Vice-President invited all Council members for input, to discuss with him in Bratislava.

### 4. Report of the Treasurer

*Paper provided: C51\_04\_Report-Treasurer (part II – Annexes)*

The financial report was presented by the Treasurer; accounts for 2022 had already been presented at C50, thus the report focussed on the audit report on the 2022 accounts and the status of the accounts 2023.

As the income from the Annual Meeting license is a major contributor to the overall income and registration numbers are not yet known a reliable projection for the end of the year accounts was not meaningful at this stage.

The President thanked the Treasurer, Heinke Schlünzen, for her excellent work in preparing and presenting the accounts.

### 5. Approval of the Report of the Bureau, including Financial Report

On behalf of the Council, Gert-Jan Steeneveld thanked the Bureau for their important work and proposed to approve the Report of the Bureau including the Financial Report.

**C51.02 Report of the President and Bureau, including the Financial Report:** The Council approved the Report of the President and Bureau, including the Financial Report. (Votes: 10:0:0)

## 6. Report of the Secretariat

The Executive Secretary reported on the activities and actions of the Secretariat since the last Council Session. The report included activities to prepare the EPM2024, to start in November.

**C51.03 Europhotometeo Committee:** The Council approved the composition of

- a) the organising committee: Andrea Oestreich (EMS; chair), Petra Grasse (Germany), Eugenio Arenas (Spain) (Votes: 10:0:0).
- b) the pre-selection committee: Yuri Brugnara (Switzerland), Marian Constantin (Romania), Marcel Costa (Spain), Emily Gleeson (Ireland), Philippe Gyarmati, (Switzerland) Kornél Kolláth (Hungary), Daniel Pavlinović (Slovakia), Marion Schnee (Germany), Martin Setvak (Czech Republic), Hanka Stehlikova (Czech Republic) (Votes: 10:0:0)

The Council thanked Fernando Bullón, Spain, very much for his commitment and initiatives to get the EPM established and running over the last decade.

The timeline for EPM2024 was planned in analogue to the running of EPM2022; it is anticipated that the submission will open mid-November 2023.

## 7. Report Committee on Meetings

*Paper provided: C51\_07\_Report-CoM (part II – Annexes)*

The Chair of the Committee on Meetings (CoM) reported on the activities of the committee, the preparations for the EMS2023 and other relevant issues related to future annual meetings.

### a. EMS2023

The status of the upcoming Annual Meeting was reported, including implementation of improvements that were requested after EMS2022 such as digital timers for oral presentations, an EMS2023 app, or virtual pointer training.

**EMS2023 Budget:** Due to high costs for the venue, and the necessity to hire the entire technical equipment for the hybrid event, the estimate of the income-expenditure balance was quite tight; at the time of the Council Session, 460 onsite and 70 online participants had registered. However, the estimate for the final outcome was still uncertain.

### b. EMS2024

The reservation for the Historical University, Barcelona as venue has been confirmed; the current estimate of the costs for the venue and technical equipment is €50K.

A first PSC meeting will take place on 6 September 2023 in Bratislava to start the development of the EMS2024 programme.

### c. EMS2025

**C51.04: EMS2025 venue & dates:** The Council approved the FEB in Zagreb as the venue of the EMS Annual Meeting 2025; the dates will be 8–12 September 2025. (Votes: 10:0:0)

### d. EMS2026

At this stage no venue in Bologna appears suitable, facility-wise or financially; thus, also other cities/countries should be considered.

The GA should be informed and Members invited to consider making proposals.

### e. Strategic Issues

The CoM held an online meeting, and two strategic issues were discussed:

#### ***Sustainable meetings – net zero events***

An EMS sustainable meetings policy has been in place since 2015, and has been updated recently, to include the opportunities virtual and hybrid meetings offer. To make the next step it is important that the implementation of measures required or recommended in the Sustainable Meetings Policy (SMP) is accompanied by measuring, monitoring and reporting relevant variables to enable current and future CO<sub>2</sub>-emission assessments. Based on these measurements, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions may be reduced or compensation for these direct effects should be planned.

The major part of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions related with the conference is due to travel. However, EMS is not responsible for the way people travel. Still we recommend avoiding flying and using public transport wherever possible, and provide supportive information for this. Compensation however, should be covered by the travellers and not by the EMS. Statistics from the EMS2023 suggest that currently around 20% of attendees (or their institution) do compensate.

The CoM will continue this work, based then on the outcome of discussion about EMS net zero pledge at the General Assembly.

#### ***New concept for abstract, presentation and attendance fees***

At the latest Council session C50 a new concept for the conference fee was proposed, essentially in analogy to the Open Access concept for publications, allowing those attending online without giving a presentation to participate for free or a substantially lower attendance fee compared to the present fees.

Council had raised a number of questions and concerns and these were addressed at the CoM meeting. Some of them are exemplified here; a fuller report will be provided once also technicalities to be considered have been investigated with Copernicus PCO.

- Online attendance is only possible due to investment in the needed technology, and this should be reflected in the fees; online participation should not be free. However, if one has to pay to present then for most people attending EMS there would still be considerable costs;
  - *The core idea of the proposed concept is that the costs should be covered by the presentation fees, not by the audience. (Publicly funded) science should be disseminated as widely as possible without barriers.*
- Paying 240€ for the submission of an abstract, can authors expect that it is accepted? If not, the submission numbers might go down; how are authors treated who submit more than one abstract?
  - *It might be better to distinguish between abstract processing fees as we have them now and “presentation charges”.*
- The level for fees for online participation should also be on a level, so it does not create an additional incentive to rather stay home than travel;
  - *Are we sure about that? Reducing travel (and work pressure) could also be argued for. We should acknowledge that online and onsite attendance serve different goals (networking vs staying abreast), and that leads to different requirements.*
- Another option could be to make recordings open accessible after a couple of days/weeks;

→ That would be a great start anyway, and it is similar to many (tech/computer science) conferences that already do this (after a few months). Perhaps start with the keynotes?

An alternative could be to add an “open access charges” like with publications. But as everything has to become open access by now anyway, that is basically the same as introducing/increasing the presentation/publication fee.

The CoM is considering to develop a plan for testing the approach, in essentially setting up the structure for attendance fees with presentation and attendance fees without presentation (online) without making large changes to the fee level itself (i.e. small distinction between these two) and monitor the percentage of each group and how this concept is accepted. If results of this first step are positive further steps towards the full implementation of the new approach may be considered.

The AMS Executive Director explained that for their AMS Annual Meeting the AMS feels the submission fees are at an appropriate level (about 20% of the conference fee: abstract fee for 2024 \$120 per submission; registration fee in 2023 was \$660 for AMS members early registration). The level is about 3 times what the EMS charges currently for abstract submission & processing; attendance fees are also by 20% higher than those for EMS2023.

#### **f. CoM membership**

**C51.05: CoM membership:** The Council approved the following members for a term of three years:

- Alice Portal, Switzerland, as new ECS Member
- Peter Kalverla, The Netherlands
- Victoria Sinclair, Finland
- Haleh Kootval, Switzerland

(Votes: 10:0:0)

The Council thanked Carola Detring very much for her commitment to develop and coordinate the ECS activities for the EMS over the last three years.

The Council thanked Dick Blaauboer and the other members of CoM for continuing to develop the Annual Meetings in terms of their relevance, quality and scope, and taking on board all the new challenges connected with the hybrid meetings.

#### **8. JEMS – Journal of the European Meteorological Society**

A presentation on the status of the launch of JEMS was given by Johannes Schmetz, chair of the ad-hoc Working Group on JEMS.

**C51.06: Launching the Journal of the EMS (JEMS):** The Council decided that

- The EMS, under the leadership of the EMS President and the EMS Bureau, works with the Preferred Publisher toward conclusion of a contract;
- The JEMS Working Group, in cooperation with the President and the Bureau, is entrusted to pursue deliberations with the Preferred Publisher on open issues;
- The EMS Bureau and President seek advice on the proposed contract from a specialised lawyer (budget already approved by Council – C50);
- The EMS President, in consultation with the EMS Bureau, will sign a contract with the Preferred Publisher and informs the EMS Council.

(Votes: 10:0:0)

**C51.07: Editorial Board of the Journal of the EMS (JEMS):** The Council decided

- a) to establish an Editorial Board for the launch of JEMS with the following composition: Johannes Schmetz (DMG), co-chair; Bert Holtslag (EMS President until Sep 2023; NVBM), co-chair; Gert-Jan Steeneveld (NVBM); Clemens Simmer (DMG); Martina Junge (EMS).
- b) The task of the board will include to make proposals for more members of the Editorial board, taking into account gender and regional balance; membership needs to be approved by the EMS Council, by vote-by-correspondence in the autumn.
- c) The editorial board will continue working on the launch of the Journal in collaboration with the Bureau, at this stage still overseeing contractual, financial and related matters. Once the Journal is established, overseeing contractual, financial and related matters will be the sole task of the EMS Bureau and Council. A separate Council decision needs to establish the time for this.

Votes (10:0:0)

## 9. Awards

### I. Report of the Awards Committee: YSCAs

On behalf of the AC chair, the Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the committee since the last Council Session focussed on the selection of recipients of conference awards (YSCAs).

**C51.08: Awards Committee membership:** The Council approved Benedikt Strajnar, Slovenia, as member for a term of three years. (Votes: 10:0:0)

The Council thanked Mojca Dolinar very much for her long-standing commitment and contributions to this important activity of the EMS, including leading the committee for three years.

### II. EMS Tromp Awards

The Chair of the selection committees for the EMS Tromp Award and the Tromp Foundation Travel Awards for Young Scientists (TFTAYS) reported on the awardees that were selected in 2023. The President thanked the Tromp Foundation for its continued support and funding, and their efforts in promoting the EMS conferences within the biometeorological community.

## 10. Report Media and Communication Committee

*Paper provided: C51\_10\_report-mcc (part II – Annexes)*

**C51.09: MCC membership:** The Council approved the terms for all six members of the Media and Communication Committee until autumn 2026: Inge Niedek, Rasmus Benestad, Jay Trobec, Gerald J Fleming, David Schultz and Tanja Cegnar (chair).  
(Votes: 10:0:0)

The Chair of the Media and Communication Committee reported on recent activities of the committee. The activities included planning for the EMS2023 ES Programme. The workshop “Effective Communication of Agrometeorological Services”, a joint endeavour of Met Éireann, the International Society of Biometeorology, the EMS Media and Communication Committee, the Slovenian Environment Agency, the Slovenian Meteorological Society, and the S. W. Tromp Foundation, held during the EMS2022 in Bonn, was very successful and it is planned to have a continuation at the EMS Annual Meeting 2024 in Barcelona.

The EMS Council officially supports this workshop as organiser together with the other organisations.

The Council thanked Tanja Cegnar and the other members of the Media and Communications Committee for their many initiatives and important contributions to EMS's activities.

## 11. Budget 2024

The Treasurer presented a proposal for the EMS Budget 2024. Foreseeing costs for the 25-year EMS anniversary was in principle welcome, but with activities most probably tightly related to EMS2024 costs should be covered under the EMS2024 budget.

Income or expenditure for JEMS was not foreseen at this stage, as the Journal will only be launched in 2024.

**C51.10: Budget 2024:** The Council approved the EMS Budget for 2024 as provided in Annex D.  
(Votes: 10:0:0)

## 12. EMS Membership

No item was discussed.

## 13. Collaboration: regional representation for Europe on the IFMS Council

None of the EMS Members that are also Members of the IFMS has submitted a nomination for the IFMS Council seat for region VI Europe. Thus, the EMS Council should take on this responsibility, and nominate a Council member.

It was suggested that the responsibility for IFMS representation should be written into one of the Council or Bureau offices. The proposal at this stage is that the permanent member representative that has no other office in the EMS Bureau is assigned this responsibility. At the current moment this would be Shanti Majithia of the RMetS; he is already the liaison with the African Meteorological Societies, but will consider the item in the coming weeks, together with RMetS.

## 14. Council composition 2023 – 2024

*Paper provided: GA25\_11\_council-composition (part II – Annexes)*

**Rotating members:** Based on discussions of the Council in spring, the Member Societies from Croatia and Cyprus were invited to nominate representatives for election at the 25th General Assembly. Both societies have agreed and the respective paper prepared for the General Assembly decision on 3 September 2023.

**Permanent members:** The representative of the permanent Member RMetS, Shanti Majithia will step down and the new representative will be nominated from October 2023.

The President thank the two outgoing members and their Societies, namely Gert-Jan Steeneveld and Meda Andrei very much for serving on the Council, and in particular Gert-Jan for his many contributions to developing JEMS.

## **15. Any Other Business**

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

## **16. 52nd Session of Council**

The Council agreed to schedule the C52 Session on Tuesday 26 & Wednesday 27 March 2024 in Reading, UK – on invitation of the RMetS.

In closing, the President thanked all Council representatives and committee chairs for their attendance and active participation in this session.

This was the last Council Session that was chaired by Bert Holtslag as President and the Council thanked him for his inventive ways to chair the sessions.

This was also the last Session, Shanti Majithia was representing the RMetS on the EMS Council; he is succeeded by Derek Swannick who will become the RMetS General Secretary on 1st October 2023.

### **Annex A: Agenda**

### **Annex B: List of Decisions and Actions**

### **Annex C: EMS Communicating Weather & Climate Award**

### **Annex D: Budget 2024**

### **Annex A: Agenda agreed by the EMS Council 51st Session of the EMS Council**

1. Acceptance of the Agenda
2. Implementation of decisions and actions agreed at C50
3. Report of the President on the activities of the Bureau
4. Report of the Treasurer
5. Approval Report of the Bureau including the financial report
6. Report of the Secretariat
7. Report Committee on Meetings
8. Report Working Group on the Journal of the EMS
9. Awards
10. Report Media and Communication Committee
11. Budget 2024
12. EMS Membership
13. Collaboration: regional representation for Europe on the IFMS Council
14. Council composition term autumn 2023 – autumn 2024
15. Date for C52 in spring 2024



**Annex B: List of Decisions and Actions of the EMS Council 51st Session, 29 August 2023**

**C51.01 EMS Communicating Weather & Climate Award:** The Council adopted the terms of reference for the new EMS Communicating Weather & Climate Award as provided in **Annex C**.

**C51.02 Report of the President and Bureau, including the Financial Report:** The Council approved the Report of the President and Bureau, including the Financial Report.

**C51.03 Europhotometeo Committee:** The Council approved the composition of

- a) the organising committee: Andrea Oestreich (EMS; chair), Petra Grasse (Germany), Eugenio Arenas (Spain) (Votes: 10:0:0).
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**C51.10: Budget 2024:** The Council approved the EMS Budget for 2024 as provided in **Annex D**.

## **Annex C: EMS Communicating Weather & Climate Award**

# The EMS Communicating Weather & Climate Award

### **Name and Scope of the Award**

The EMS Communicating Weather & Climate Award is presented to honour individual European meteorologists/climatologists who have delivered outstanding long-term communication conveying strong, accurate science in any media outlet including radio, television, film, newspaper, magazine, social media, and online. The laureate is invited to attend the EMS Annual Meeting.

### **The EMS Communicating Weather & Climate Award**

The EMS Communicating Weather & Climate Award is given annually to honour outstanding and long-term communication activity by an individual in the field of meteorology / climatology (normally at least 5 years) in any media outlet, or combination of outlets, including radio, television, film, newspaper, magazine, social media, and online. Submissions in a language other than English are welcomed but must be accompanied by translated text or subtitles in a video. The award is given annually and only one recipient is selected each year.

The award is normally presented during the EMS Annual Meeting, and the laureate highlighted on the EMS website Best Practice section.

### **Eligibility**

Any individual having shown long-term activity in media outlets and demonstrated best practices in communication of meteorology and climate science to the general public over the period of several years qualifies as a nominee for the EMS Communicating Weather & Climate Award.

### **Candidates may be proposed by:**

- Individual members of the EMS Council and the Media and Communication Committee
- EMS Member Societies and EMS Associate Members
- Individual members of the EMS Member Societies
- Self-nominations are allowed and highly encouraged.

### **The documentation required for the proposal consists of the following:**

1. A letter of no more than one page explaining the contents, context, and impact of the submitted work.
2. URLs of published or broadcasted materials. If a URL is not fully and freely accessible, then the material must be submitted in portable document format (PDF). At least three samples of their work produced during and spanning the last five years. Samples can be from traditional and/or social media in the format of video clips, blogs, articles etc.
3. A short professional CV that demonstrates the applicant's active role in the communication of weather and/or climate information.
4. A proposal for the Award citation (limit of 25 words).
5. Translated text or subtitles (in case of video submission) for any material in a language other than English.

## **Decision Process**

The selection committee consists of the members of the EMS Media and Communication Committee. The work of the committee is normally carried out through e-mail and, where necessary, online meetings.

## **Award**

The laureate receives a trophy and is invited to the EMS Annual Meeting in particular as a special guest of the Communication and media Session; travel expenses of the laureate to attend the EMS Annual Meeting will be covered by the EMS.

## **The laureates are required to:**

1. Show the samples of products during the EMS Annual Meeting,
2. include a description of the samples of work on the EMS internet site as example of good practice in communicating meteorology/

**Annex D: Budget 2024**

Financial Accounts 2023 (column D) and Budget 2024 (column E)				
A	C		D	E
<b>Carried forward from previous year:</b>	<b>288,957.82</b>		<b>288,957.82</b>	<b>271,117.85</b>
	<b>Budget 2023 - agreed at C50</b>		<b>Accounts 2023 status 30 June 2023</b>	<b>Budget 2024</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Income from Members	23,865.92	a)	11,974.67	24,300.00 <sup>k)</sup>
Income from Associate Members	38,500.00		38,500.00	38,500.00
Annual Meeting	72,000.00	b)	-	74,000.00 <sup>k)</sup>
VAT Annual Meeting	5,040.00		-	5,180.00
Interest	10.00		82.77	150.00
Employee energy costs support from government				
<b>Total</b>	<b>139,415.92</b>		<b>50,557.44</b>	<b>142,130.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Salaries	113,648.17	c),d),e)	54,526.00	125,600.00 <sup>l)</sup>
Employee energy cost support, repaid to EMS by Committees, Project Teams	500.00		-	500.00
Awards	13,000.00		2,500.00	13,000.00
Europhotometeo (EPM)	-		-	-
Workshops	650.00		-	650.00
Publications	1,650.00	f)	696.99	1,650.00
<i>tax on pub.costs purchased abroad (payment in 2023)</i>	-		-	-
Honoraries, Fees, Insurances	5,450.00	f)g)	3,536.70	5,100.00 <sup>k)</sup>
<i>Honoraries; tax on fees abroad (payment in 2023)</i>	-		-	-
Travel	10,000.00		1,133.87	10,200.00 <sup>k)</sup>
<i>travel: tax on registration fees abroad (payment in 2023)</i>			-	-
Support for topical meetings	150.00		-	150.00
Banking charges	250.00		171.30	250.00
Office costs	2,000.00	h)	835.23	2,000.00
Other costs	50.00		-	50.00
<i>set off sales tax on purchases abroad (payment in 2023)</i>		i)	-	-
VAT annual meeting	9,674.39	j)	9,674.39	5,040.00
VAT other	233.33	i)	233.33	-
Payments on fixed assets				
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>157,255.89</b>		<b>73,307.81</b>	<b>164,190.00</b>
<b>Income - Expenditure</b>	<b>-17,839.97</b>		<b>-22,750.37</b>	<b>-22,060.00</b>
<b>Account Balance at/anticipated for 31 Dec</b>	<b>271,117.85</b>		<b>266,207.45</b>	<b>249,057.85</b>

- a) Increase of income from members assumed for 2023: depends on EU area (27) consumer price index
- b) The income from the annual meeting depends on the number of participants, it is difficult to know the exact value in advance. This is a required mean value to keep the EMS accounts balanced.
- c) Increase according to German Civil Service (TVöD Bund) applied for EMS salaries 1.8% from 01.01.2023 (according to Council Res. C169 at C28 in 2013, Roskilde)
- d) Assistant paid following German Civil Service (TVöD Bund) from 1.4.2023 onwards.
- e) A student assistant finished her work end of Feb. 2023. A new part time employee shall be employed (1 day/week), paid following German Civil Service (TVöD Bund), 8 hours a week
- f) increase by 10% inflation rate (2023)
- g) €500 for lawyer to review publishing contract (2023)
- h) payments on fixed assets not deducted under "Office costs" but from the overall balance in tax advisor's calculation
- i) VAT on purchases abroad has to be paid in Germany; the total amount for year N is calculated after the end of the year when the tax advisor compiles the income-expenditure statement; and is then paid in year N+1: for 2021 paid in 2022 (€69,14); for 2022 paid in 2023 (€233.33)
- j) VAT on income from the Annual Meeting year N (2022) is paid in year N+1 (2023): €9.674,39

### ***specifically related to Budget 2024***

- k) 2 percent inflation rate assumed (rounded)
- l) Increase 2024 according to German Civil Service (TVöD Bund) applied for EMS salaries: new salary group for assistant (from 1 Apr) plus 250 Euro per month from 01.01.2024 (acc. to Council Res. C169 at C28 in 2013, Roskilde); rounded values