The members of the Global Sponsorship Committee are: Alessandra Fidelis (Brazil, chair), David Zelený (Taiwan), Alireza Naqinezhad (Iran), Camila Wellstein (Italy), Lauchlan Fraser (Canada) and Peter C. Le Roux (South Africa).

During this period, we approved applications for membership fee waiver and discussed and approved the decision of the local committee for travel grant allocation made by the European Vegetation Survey Executive Committee. They received 17 applications to cover registration fee, travel and accommodation costs. Based on the evaluation of the abstract, motivation letter and CV, they approved 14 applications for the Meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia (total of 7,500 euros). Half of the participants in the end could not attend; after additionally awarding some of the Ukrainian colleagues, the total sum spent for EVS travel support was 4,000 euros.

For the 64th Annual Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science, we received 39 applications: 4 applications for the Virtual symposium, and 35 for the In Person symposium. Since the total amount requested did not exceeded the value allocated for the travel grants this year, all applications were granted. Applications were from 17 different countries, mostly from Brazil (13), Germany (4), Uruguay (3), Italy (3), Colombia (2), South Africa (2), Hungary (2). Undergraduate, Master, PhD students, as well as Post-docs accounted for 82% of all applications. The number of applications from countries from Latin America has increased significantly this year. However, we still have less applications from countries from Africa (only South Africa) and Asia.

Since last year we had a Virtual Symposium, we did not apply the rule this year of giving 70% of the total amount requested for applications from people who have received travel grant in the last two years. The criteria used by the GSC were to be a member of the IAVS and have oral or poster presentation at the symposium (Virtual or In Person), abstract (2/5), motivation letter (2/5) and age (the younger the better; 1/5). We believed that merit was one of the most important criteria for evaluating the applications.

- Evaluation by committee members is based on a) motivation letter (+CV) and b) abstract. The evaluation is done on scale 0 (poor) to 5 (excellent).
- The final evaluation is including also professional age criteria: graduate (MSc or PhD) student = 5, post-doc = 4, researcher/professor/other = 2. This will be added to the table in the end.
- The final calculation is based on the average from abstract + motivation letter/CV + professional age, with the following weights: abstract 2/5, motivation & CV 2/5, professional age 1/5.
Applicants submitted for evaluation:

- A motivation letter: In the motivation letter (maximum 1 page), explain why you want to attend the IAVS Symposium, possible benefits to your future research, and if applicable, how previous experiences/success with other conferences have helped your research. State clearly that you have no or only partial financial support from your institution for attending the IAVS Symposium. If you do have other support, state the amount in Euros.

- A brief CV.

- Abstract

All abstracts will be evaluated by at least two GSC members. Also, before approval, the local organization committee was consulted if the applicants’ abstracts were also accepted by the scientific committee before the final decision of the GSC.