Continuation of ongoing actions

Promoting communication within the group

During the last year, we kept updating our Twitter (@IavsYoung), Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/353191064892110/), and mailing list accounts including job and meeting announcements and the #youngvegscientists posts (see below).

We also used our Twitter account to promote the #ScienceForUkraine, an international effort on sharing job, and grant announcements aimed for Ukrainian scientists. https://twitter.com/IavsYoung/status/1498252333226070022

Virtual excursions

After the success of last year's Virtual Excursions during the IAVS Symposium, the videos for which authors agreed to share are now available on the IAVS homepage at https://www.iavs.org/page/publications_virtual_excursions. Also, we launched another call for submissions of Virtual Excursions, to be broadcasted at the hybrid 64th IAVS Annual Symposium in Madrid, and then they will be also available on the IAVS website. The participation this year was not as expressive as last year, with only 3 applicants.

#youngvegscientists

The YS steering committee launched an initiative to promote the visibility of young vegetation scientists by advertising their work on our social media. By young scientists, we consider MSc, PhD students, and postdocs, e.g. non-tenured researchers. From June 1st until November, every second Tuesday, we posted on our Facebook and Twitter accounts a short description of one of the awarded scientists. The post is under the hashtag #youngvegscientist and contained the candidate’s affiliation, a short description of the research aims, and selected photos. So far we have promoted 10 candidates and we plan another round of posts. In order to have high representativeness of diversity in academia, we took the effort to promote candidates from continents, genders, and career stages. We especially invite the members of the IAVS council meeting to indicate people that you know, especially the ones from
underrepresented groups, to participate in this action. Candidates can apply via GoogleForm (https://forms.gle/ic4ZNZR7qRRMyGPP9) or via our e-mail address: iavs yssteeringcommittee@gmail.com

New actions:

Analysis Course feat. David Zeleny

Upon the discussion between the committee members and David Zelený, an idea to offer a course on statistical analyses of vegetation data was developed. The course was realized under the name AnaVeg2022 for more than 40 participants It comprised five Saturday’s lectures with practical exercises and extensive homework assignments, for those, who would like to receive a certificate with credit points. The course was a great success with very positive feedback from the participants. The money raised from the workshop will be used to finance the activities of our group, including the ‘Seeding grant’ (see below).

The huge interest from the research community in this course made us think of organizing an extended version of this workshop to be run in autumn 2022.

Attempt for a collaborative paper

Given the interest demonstrated by some of the members for a new collaborative paper after the successful publication of “Fifteen emerging challenges and opportunities for vegetation science: A horizon scan by early career researchers” (Yannelli et al. 2022; https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.13119) we organized a meeting to discuss scientific ideas and potential for another collaborative paper in the context/framework of young vegetation scientists Working Group. At the meeting, members of the current Young Scientist Working group committee, leaders of the abovementioned collaborative paper (and previous committee members) and some other invited members of the group listed and discussed possible research topics to be implemented, i.e. a global comparison of certain vegetation types or species sociology and trait characteristics, assessment of gender representation in vegetation science. The main aim was that the topic was as inclusive as possible in regard to group members. As a major point, previous committee members stressed that a core group should hold the responsibility to finish the paper. So, as there was no other volunteer among the participants to look through the whole (long) process, it was decided to postpone this activity and/or propose it to the next committee.

Preparation of grant initiative for YS

The steering committee is currently preparing a proposal, to be discussed by the council, on a grant program to stimulate and support the development of early-career researchers in vegetation science. The awarded grants should help students, as well as Postdocs with up to 2 years of working experience to advance their personal and professional development by, for example, attending training courses, workshops, or field excursions, as well as short-term research, stays in other institutions. We will explicitly support proposals with a clear focus on the development of individual skills and competencies. We will particularly encourage members of underrepresented groups to apply. This program is meant to be offered at a given frequency (eg, 2-3 times per year). We propose for a first (experimental) round now, to be improved, as we learn, on the following versions. The details are to be discussed during the council at the coming IAVS meeting.
IAVS-YS Steering Committee, 2021-2023