The members of the Global Sponsorship Committee are: Alessandra Fidelis (Brazil, chair), David Zelený (Taiwan), Alireza Naqinezhad (Iran), Camila Wellstein (Italy), 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 21 applications to cover registration fee, travel and accommodation costs. Based on the evaluation of the abstract, motivation letter and CV, they approved 11 applications for the Meeting in Rome, Italy (total of 7,000 euros). We also approved the decision of the local committee for travel grant made by the Eurasian Dry Grassland Group (EDGG). They approved 10 applications based on the abstract and motivation letter (total of 3,750 euros).

For the 65th Annual Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science, we received 43 applications. Applications were from 21 different countries, mostly from Australia (5), Italy (5), Brazil (4), Hungary (2), Germany (2), Poland (2), Taiwan (2), Ukraine (2), USA (2), Estonia (2), France (2), Ghana (2), India (2), Indonesia (1), Iran (2), Kenya (1), Mongolia (1), Algeria (1), Argentina (1), Colombia (1) and South Africa (1). Undergraduate, Master, PhD students, as well as post-docs accounted for 76% of all applications. This year, we had more countries from Asia and African applying in comparison to former years. We approved 30 applications, from 15 countries (total 40,600 euros).

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 for the evaluation of the applications.

We updated all information about criteria (https://www.iavs.org/page/membership_financial-support) and reimbursement information (https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iavs.org/resource/resmgr/meetings/reimbursement_forms/iavs_travel_grants_2023.07.2.pdf). To be eligible to apply and receive the travel grant, the following criteria were also used:

- Applicant must be a member of IAVS and give oral or poster presentation at the symposium. If you are not a member yet, you can join at the IAVS Membership Page (reduced and free membership is available for persons with financial constraints).
- The applicant can be a student or researcher.
- If the applicant has already received the grant for IAVS Symposium in the past two years, she/he can apply again but will receive only 70% of the total approved amount.
- Applicants from high-income countries will obtain only 70% of the approved funding.
- 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.
- The awarded budget is not based on the budget requested by the applicant, but on the budget estimated by GSC committee (estimated cost of flight ticket, early bird registration fee, budget accommodation – 1 person budget hotel room nearby the conference venue).

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. The decision was sent for the approval of the Governing Boarding.
FINANCIAL SUPPORT | TRAVEL AWARDS AND GRANTS

You have been awarded a grant — What should you do next?

IMPORTANT NOTE BEFORE SENDING YOUR REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS

IAVS aims to support as many applicants as possible. For that reason, we kindly ask you to **not apply for the travel award unless you need these funds**. Also, if you manage to solicit funding from other sources (other foundations, institutional money, grant project) and you do not need the travel award (or a part of it) anymore, please inform the chair of GSC about this situation as soon as possible.

**Double reimbursement of the same cost from different sources is considered unethical behaviour** and will be investigated by the Ethical Committee of IAVS, with possible consequences for the awardee. For example:

- If the Poster or Oral Presentation Award winner is also granted travel support, the winner shall receive the full presentation award (1.000€), and the travel support granted can be only used as a top up to cover the travel expenses.
- If an IAVS member is nominated by the WG Chair to represent the working group at the symposium, s/he can also apply for travel support, but needs to clearly state in the motivation letter that s/he will obtain also a given amount of money from honorarium, and the travel support will be used only to top up additional travel expenses.

Kindly note that IAVS will cover your **conference registration fees**. You will receive further instructions on how to register using your grant either from the organising team or the IAVS Secretariat.

Process

After the event, please send the complete reimbursement form, together with copies of all your receipts to the IAVS Secretariat (admin@iavs.org).

You can **DOWNLOAD** a copy of the reimbursement form here. We kindly ask you to complete it (you can do it on your laptop or fill it out by hand) and email it as described above. **Please ensure that all the information provided is accurate and that the form is duly signed.**

We will add you to our payment system, called Bill.com. Once added, you will receive a personal invitation from Bill.com, inviting you to enter your bank details yourself via a secure link. This method saves us time and makes sure the payment is headed to the right place.

IMPORTANT NOTE AFTER ATTENDING THE EVENT

Travel grants cover the following expenses: **travel expenses and accommodation**. Travel grants should not be used to cover meals or **per diem**.

The currency rate used for the reimbursements will be the rate on the date when you signed the reimbursement form.

Please note that it usually takes 2 to 3 weeks for the reimbursements to be processed after receipt of the reimbursement form and corresponding receipts.