



Dear GIREP Members and Friends,

We would like to announce that GIREP has been successfully registered as an international non-profit organization GIREP vzw in Belgium on the 2nd of January 2016, so in its 50th anniversary year we celebrate a kind of rebirth of GIREP. Being a legal organization generates more possibilities and responsibilities for the organization and its Committee in particular.

We have registered officially the translation of the documents needed for the establishment (which, by law, have been initially submitted in Dutch). You will find the PDF of it on the website. The PDF contains the statutes, the members of the Committee (that officially founded this legal organization) and their functions within the Committee on the 2nd of January 2016. This separate registration makes it a legal document.

GIREP ELECTIONS 2016

One of the changes we want to promote just from the beginning is a new procedure of election. GIREP Committee announces that **elections to GIREP Committee will take place during summer 2016**. Since we will have two meetings in two different parts of the world, WCPE in Sao Paolo, Brasil and GIREP Seminar in Krakow, Poland, we have decided to organize the elections in an online form.

The system for online voting is under preparation and being tested now. Starting from **July, 5th** registered GIREP members will find a new item **Elections** in the menu at the GIREP website (after login). The members will vote independently for members of GIREP Committee:

- GIREP president
- GIREP vice-president 1 from the university community
- GIREP vice-president 2 from the teacher community
- GIREP secretary
- GIREP treasurer

Also, an independent vote will be for:

- An auditor (which is external to the Committee)

An important note:

Only current GIREP members will be able to suggest candidates to vote and to be voted. According to GIREP statutes, members *not paying* their GIREP membership fee *either in 2016* or in a year before (*2015*) cannot be considered as GIREP members and therefore cannot vote. So, please, be so kind and "update" your payment of GIREP membership fee if you have not paid yet.

Also, **only members who are registered in the GIREP database** (i.e. those who registered themselves via GIREP website) **will be able to use the online voting system**. Therefore, in case you are GIREP member but you are not yet registered, please, do it without delay.

Please, suggest candidates to the GIREP Committee and for an auditor!

Please, send your suggestions for candidates for particular positions of the committee to the GIREP Secretary Dagmara Sokolowska (e-mail: dagmara.sokolowska@uj.edu.pl). One person can be suggested for only one position. The candidate should be asked in advance and agree to the candidacy. The deadline for sending suggestions is the **1st of July 2016**. Any proposal should be accompanied with a short description of a candidate for a particular position that might help the electorate to make its choice.

GIREP MEMBERSHIP

One of the advantages of establishing a legal organisation is a possibility to open a bank account of the organisation itself. So starting this year you may pay your GIREP membership in two easy and cheap ways:

- by transferring the amount of money from your account to
IBAN BE66 7350 4403 3843
BIC KRED BE BB
of GIREP vzw, Millegemweg 49, 2531 Boechout, Belgium
(Euro zone, transfer is free of charge)
- by using your own PayPal account: transfer the amount due, to your “friend” girep.vzw@gmail.com (free of charge)
using the link <https://www.paypal.com/be/webapps/mpp/send-money-online>

In both cases you need to add a remark to the payment: your NAME, COUNTRY and the years you pay membership for. Optimistic example: “Jaime Rodriguez, Colombia, 2016+2017+2018”

There is a more costly way also available. If you do not have PayPal account yourself, but you want to transfer money to GIREP PayPal account, using a credit card, or bank transfer, use the buttons that will appear on the GIREP website on the 22nd of June. This however is not free of charge as you will notice.

We encourage you all to get your GIREP membership for 2016. The current fee for GIREP membership is due from the beginning of 2016. The cost is 30 EURO.

We would like to remind you that as a GIREP member you have exclusive access to the digital proceedings of the past GIREP conferences. In addition you can get a reduced registration fee for GIREP conferences and for conferences of our partner organizations (see *GIREP Newsletter 54*). As mentioned above there is also one more advantage of being a member. **Only current GIREP members will be able to vote and to be voted for GIREP Committee and GIREP auditor.**

WCPE and GIREP SEMINAR 2016

We would like to remind you that there are two GIREP scientific meetings organized this year.

One of them, the 2nd World Conference on Physics Education is being held in Brazil, July 11-15 at the University of Sao Paulo. The general topic is: **Contemporary Science Education and Challenges in the**

Present Society: perspectives in Physics Teaching and Learning. GIREP is a co-organizer of this event together with other world-wide organizations in physics education and physics education research, IUPAP, ICPE and MPTL. So far almost 500 participants from all over the world have been registered to this conference.

More information can be found at: <http://www.wcpe2016.org/en/index.php>

The second scientific meeting, GIREP Seminar 2016 will take place from August 30 until September 3, in Krakow, Poland and is organized by the Jagiellonian University. The general theme is: **Research-based proposals for improving physics teaching and learning – focus on laboratory work.** The seminar will be organized in the style of the old-time GIREP meetings – with keynotes, panel talks and poster presentations focused on six themes and followed by sessions of workshops proposed for in-depth discussions in small groups of researchers and practitioners, led by workshop leaders. So far 130 participants have been registered for this event.

More information can be found at: <http://www.girep2016.confer.uj.edu.pl/>

We are looking forward to seeing you in Sao Paolo and Krakow! We hope that opportunities that occurred after registration of GIREP as a legal organization, like on-line elections and easier membership payment will encourage you to become an active GIREP member.

Prof. Marisa Michelini
President of GIREP

June, 16 2016