



VMI General Assembly

Thursday, 17.12.2020 17:00

Dear D-INFK members,

the scientific staff association (VMI) invites you to the next general assembly. We meet on **Thursday, 17th of December at 17:00** via [Zoom](#) to present the work of the past year, discuss plans for 2021 and to elect new representatives and a new board.

Agenda

1. Welcome by VMI president Alexander Viand
2. Election of the scrutineer and keeper of the minutes
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of the protocol of the last General Assembly
5. **Reports on the activities of the VMI in 2020**

VMI's year kicked off strong with a series of talks, seminars, and workshops from our new Mental Strength (Well Being & Scientific Excellence) programme. However, this was soon overshadowed by the Covid19 pandemic that significantly reduced our ability to fulfil our mission of bringing people together.

Sadly, the situation and ETH restrictions never relaxed far enough to allow us to conduct our annual summer retreat or many of the workshops we had planned. Nevertheless, we adapted some of our events to the new situation, e.g. virtual talks and board game nights and were able to conduct a physical "Welcome to D-INFK" event during the summer, albeit in a modified form. There, we also started our very first "Buddy System", forming small groups of 6-12 new members and 1-2 more experienced members to facilitate the onboarding process.

Politically, VMI maintained its representation on the committees of the department even as those committees switched to virtual meetings and continued to provide feedback on a variety of consultations. We also saw some of the consultations of the previous year produce results, with new regulations on doctoral studies and employment being released. We look forward to carefully watching how ETH and our department implement these into practice as they start to become active next year.



6. Announcement of VMI plans 2021.

While we hope for a quick recovery from the current situation, a return to indoor in-person events seems unlikely for the spring term. Therefore, our short-term preparations focus on bringing high-quality virtual events to our members.

We remain careful but optimistic and are expecting a return to physical events for the summer & fall of the next year. We especially hope to find a way to conduct our summer retreat next year. We also want to build upon our experiences with the Buddy System this year and expand on this in 2021.

Since most of the Mental Strength programme scheduled for this year had to be cancelled, one of our top priorities is to find ways to start this programme up again. Noticing how difficult it is to maintain such a programme using volunteers alone, we are looking for someone external to support us in the coordination role.

7. Adoption of the budget for 2021

Financially, VMI leaves 2020 with a significant surplus due to a significant part of the Mental Strength budget remaining unused and virtual events in general being cheaper than physical equivalents. In addition, the department has voiced its willingness to financially support the mental strength initiative quite generously. Therefore, we propose to carry forward our commitment to the Mental Strength initiative, including dedicating part of the budget to an external coordination role.

8. Elections

8.1. President and vice-president, secretary, treasurer

8.2. Representatives in the Department Conference

8.3. Representatives in the Studies Committee

8.4. Auditors for 2021

9. AOB