

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CIAM SPACE MODELS SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITY FOR 2011

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CIAM Space Models Subcommittee (SM SC) was composed of 23 members in 2011, all from different countries from four continents. SM SC convene regularly once a year at World or European Championships. In addition to that there was a very intensive email correspondence on different spacemodelling issues.

There was one SM SC meeting in the 2011 FAI European Championships for SM in Buzau (Romania), held on the last day. It was open to SM SC members, outstanding sportsmen and all team managers. The Agenda contained: 1) Presentation of new books by Prof Ioan Radu (ROU) and Stuart Lodge (UK), 2) New ways of organization of the Space Models Championships and 3) General revision of the Space Models rules.

At the beginning of the meeting Prof. Ioan Radu (ROU), the first World SM Champion in 1972, presented one copy of his book "World Space Modelling" to representatives of every participating NAC. The book was published both in Romanian and English just before the Champs and it covers 50 years of SM history within the FAI. That is an excellent introduction into celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Spacemodelling in the FAI in 2012. Also the book "Space Modelling – Model Rocketry" by Stuart Lodge seems to be a very good, modern teaching tool for the beginners.

Further discussion called to change of organization of SM Championships. They are too large, physically and technically too demanding and too expensive for both the organizers and the participants. Eight classes in senior and junior classification at the same place at the same time every year (WCh or ECh) require reorganization. There are several ways to do that: a) separate junior and senior championships; b) reduce number of classes, but to select fixed set of Championship classes c) organize several SM championships by groups of classes. SM SC decided to continue to deal with this problem and to find a relevant solution.

A special appreciation to spacemodelling were three awards by 105th FAI General Conference held in Belgrade (Serbia) to Leszek Szwed (POL) – Antonov Diploma and to Nikola Cvjeticanin (SRB) a S5/S7 judge and Stanisa Petrovic (MKD), MKD team manager (Paul Tissandier Diplomas) for their contribution to development of spacemodelling.

The most important sports, technical and organizational activities in 2012 were:

1) 2011 FAI World Championships for SM in Buzau (Romania) participated by 13 countries (13 senior and 8 junior teams) were successful. The technical advantage of electronic altitude measurements for classes S1A, S1B, S5B and S5C was confirmed for the second time.

2) SM World Cup was also successful. There were 22 events organized by 16 countries at three continents with participation of sportsmen from 25 countries. Croatia entered World Cups as the organizer of its first event Fenix Cup. Also competitors from Greece entered these events for the first time, too. It was noticed a stagnation of number of participants (increase of only 0,24%), but number of events increased for 8,33%. A "little crises" is noticed in class S8E/P-RC Gliders. There number of events increased for 23,62%, but number of participants decreased for -5,93%, which shows decrease of average participation per an event. It must be improved next year. The most serious situation is in West Europe where four World Cup contests ceased to exist in last four years, but in these countries hobby flying and High-Power rocketry in parallel organizations are constantly progressing.

3) Open International –non World Cup events were organized in non-World Cup classes as back-up events of several World Cups to encourage space modelers to contribute to versatility of this sport. These were S1B(altitude), S3A (parachute duration) and S8D (RC duration rocket-gliders).

4) SM SC had also a very intensive activity in a complete revision of the SM rules for 2012. There were received more than 100 proposals by 25 persons from 12 countries. Forty of them are submitted to the FAI Office for the approval by the CIAM Plenary in 2012. The proposals showed also need of spacemodelling to find its "main-stream" in 21st century. Therefore the SAPHIRE SM Development Program shall gather experts from many countries to approach new technologies to SM and to attract public and media. One of the goals is to re-enter WAG program in next several years.

5) Need for well educated coaches and competent judges is also present. An international teaching program for all levels of education would be necessary and also some organized refreshment of knowledge of judges in summer camps or similar conditions. Because of ignorance of the rules there were noticed some deviations in nomination and registration of judges, that were without major consequences for competitions. However, it is necessary to pay much more attention to judges at the CIAM and FAI level.