

REPORT TO DONORS

The ISSMGE Foundation

A charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) associated with the
International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

Charity Commission of England and Wales - No. 1153795

Trustees:

Professor Michael C.R. Davies (Chair)
Professor Emeritus, University of Sussex, UK

Professor R. Neil Taylor
Professor in Geotechnical Engineering, City, University of London, UK

Professor Mark B. Jaksa
Professor of Geotechnical Engineering, University of Adelaide, Australia

Mme Valérie Bernhardt,
Executive Director, Terrasol, Paris, France

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BACKGROUND

The concept of the ISSMGE Foundation dates back to September 2009, when Professor Jean-Louis Briaud, the newly-elected President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) in his acceptance speech to the ISSMGE Council Meeting (Alexandria, Egypt), introduced his vision of a foundation that would enable geotechnical engineers from around the world to make better use of resources that may otherwise be inaccessible to them. These resources would include participation in conferences, attending knowledge development courses, etc., with a view to enhancing the awardees own education and professional formation and, as a result, their contribution to society at large. In short, and as stated in the Foundation constitution, its objective is “the advancement of education and educational training in the field of geotechnical engineering and its applications for the public benefit”.

In September 2013, The ISSMGE Foundation achieved charitable status and was entered onto the Register of Charities of the Charity Commission of England and Wales, with the Registered Charity Number 1153795.

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

The ISSMGE Foundation currently has four trustees: Professor Michael C.R. Davies (Chair), Professor R. Neil Taylor, Professor Mark Jaksa and Mme Valérie Bernhardt, all of whom contribute to decisions concerning the granting of awards. In the future and as the Foundation develops, the Trustees may find it necessary to name additional trustees. The new trustees may be recruited from the ISSMGE Membership, from its own (past) beneficiaries, or from other independent institutions, depending on the needs arising and skills and experience required to consolidate the activities of the Foundation. Professor Jean-Louis Briaud resigned as trustee in June 2019, at which point Mme Bernhardt was appointed.

Professor Taylor is also in charge of the day-to-day management; the ISSMGE Foundation does not have salaried staff members. Administrative support is provided by the ISSMGE.

ACTIVITIES

The purpose of the Foundation is to award grants to applicants who fulfil the requirements as specified below.

PROCEDURE FOR AWARDING GRANTS

The financial assistance is in the form of a bursary which the successful applicant can use to pay registration costs, travel and/or accommodation expenses. Although membership of the ISSMGE is not a prerequisite for receiving support from the Foundation, applicants are strongly encouraged to become members of their national geotechnical societies, and subsequently of the ISSMGE.

The following procedure has been developed to assess applications for ISSMGE Foundation bursaries:

- a. Applications can be submitted four times yearly (at 3-month intervals) on a standard form, to the Secretary General of ISSMGE;

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- b. These applications are sent to the trustees (Professor Michael Davies, Professor Neil Taylor, Professor Mark Jaksa and Mme. Valérie Bernhardt);
- c. The trustees assess the applications on the basis of the following criteria:
 - i. Demonstration of need;
 - ii. Quality of the activity;
 - iii. Cost-sharing;
 - iv. Potential impact of the activity on the career progress of the individual and of his or her Member Society.
- d. Decisions are made and communicated normally within three weeks following the application round.
- e. After the successful applicant has completed his/her nominated activity, they provide a written report to the Trustees on the benefits that they and their Society have gained from the award of the bursary.

The criteria and procedure described above were established in February 2014, though may be modified when considered necessary.

To date (Sept 2021), there have been a total of 219 applicants with 176 awards being approved at a success rate of 89%. Of these, 176 bursaries (in total £152,063) have been paid with a further 8 due when awardees have completed their activities. Some of this funding took place in the early days through the ISSMGE, prior to the Foundation achieving charitable status.

Not surprisingly and as a result of the pandemic, fewer requests for funding were received over the last twenty months. As activities are resumed both locally and internationally, it is expected that the number of applicants will increase. It is possible that the nature of the applications made and awards granted will evolve as more hybrid events (with possible online attendance) are rolled out.

The reports submitted by the awardees are available to read on the ISSMGE website: <https://www.issmge.org/issmge-foundation/recipients-reports>.

FINANCES AND FUND RAISING

Funding for the ISSMGE Foundation is generated from companies and individuals who concur with the objectives of the Foundation. The funding levels are as follows:

- Diamond: \$50,000 and above
- Platinum: \$25,000 to \$49,999
- Gold: \$10,000 to \$24,999
- Silver: \$1000 to \$9,999
- Bronze: \$0 to \$999

The names of the donors are recognised with their corresponding levels on the ISSMGE web site (<https://www.issmge.org/issmge-foundation/donors-list>) and in the ISSMGE Bulletin on the page dedicated to the ISSMGE Foundation. They are also recognised at International Conferences on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering.

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ISSMGE Foundation cash reserves at the end of 2020 were £576,273 (at the end of 2019 they were £554,771), as per audited accounts, extracts attached. Currently, the Board is considering awards to the value of approximately US \$2000 (c. £1,630).

The ISSMGE Foundation trustees appointed Tilney Ltd (UK) in June 2019 to help establish an endowment fund which would enable the Foundation to make awards from the income earned, and not rely on charitable donations. The initial investment of £500,000 was valued at £574,584 on 31st December 2021.

IMPACT OF ISSMGE FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES

It is clear that the financial assistance provided by the ISSMGE Foundation has had a very positive impact on the individuals receiving the bursaries and consequently on their Member Societies.

As awareness of the awards becomes more widespread among our Member Societies, the number of applications has increased. We expect the number of applications to rise with the approach of the next International Conference, and the associated Young Engineers' Geotechnical Conference (both in Sydney, in May 2022).

Historically, the number applications received per year was increasing, but the pandemic has halted that trend. As mentioned earlier, we would expect the number of applications to eventually rise to their pre-pandemic level, but it is likely that different types of events will be organised (online, hybrid, in-person) and thus a greater range of values of the awards (as travel and accommodation may no longer be factors in some requests) will be considered by the trustees.

The ISSMGE Foundation is fulfilling its objective of providing financial help to geotechnical engineers throughout the world who wish to further their knowledge and practice. We are already seeing individuals who have benefitted from Foundation awards becoming valuable contributors to the future of ISSMGE via their national member societies, and through ISSMGE technical committees and presidential groups.

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From our awardees:

The reports submitted by the awardees are available to read on the ISSMGE website: <https://www.issmge.org/issmge-foundation/recipients-reports>. The following are extracts from some of the reports.

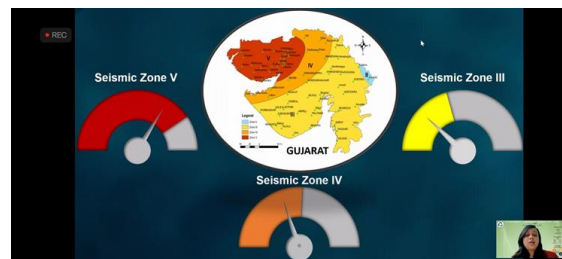
“The time schedule was well defined and allow people from all over the world to attended it. The key lectures were very interesting and it was great to attend to many relevant researchers’ lectures. The videos recorded for the themed sessions were available during the conference and two weeks after ..and that gave me the opportunity to watch again some of them and those that it wasn’t possible to watch during the event because of schedule conflicts.”



Malena D’Elia Otero

XIII International Symposium on Landslides (COLOMBIA), 2021

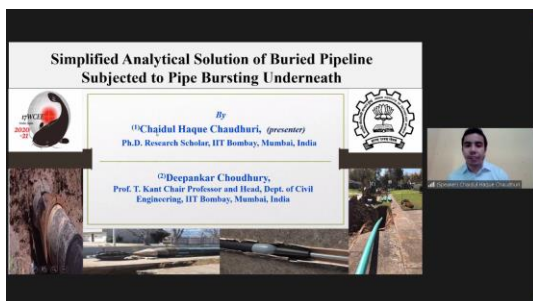
“Everything was preplanned. The organizers asked for the presentation recording so if the participants have any issue regarding network connectivity, they can simply play their presentation. There were also preview rooms for each and every parallel sessions, in which participants have to show their entire presentation so any issues can be avoided”.



Manali S. Patel

CREST2020, 1st International Symposium on Construction Resources for Environmentally Sustainable Technologies Location of (JAPAN), 2021

“Although due to COVID Pandemic it was not able to an in person interaction but even in virtual mode I had able to interact with academicians and practicing engineers from various countries and leading researchers and stalwarts in the field of engineering and gain an insight into their on-going research activities. “



Chaidul Haque Chaudhuri

17th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (17WCEE) (JAPAN), 2021

“This was the first conference I have attended (although virtually), I was very delighted to learn about so many wide topics from researchers all over the world. I have read papers by the pioneers for my research, being able to listen to them live about their research interests was a unique experience for me.”



Sanchari Mondal

6th International Conference on Geotechnical and Geophysical Site Characterisation (HUNGARY), 2021

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"...the conference provided me with an ideal opportunity to interact with many young researchers and doctoral students which resulted in the exchange of ideas and feedback on our doctoral research work."



Mohammed Ashfaq (India)
with Prof. Anand Puppala

GeoCongress 2020 (Minneapolis, USA)

"The knowledge gained in the conference and from the papers presented shall in no small measure guide me in my PhD research work. I am going to share the information gathered from the conference with other students for the furtherance of scientific research and development in the University of Port Harcourt."



Will Ibm Beresibo (Nigeria)

17th African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, 2019 (Cape Town, South Africa)

"...this conference enriched me with guidance on improving my research skills ... (an) opportunity to meet and network with colleagues, senior professors, practising and professional geotechnical engineers, which may open the door for me for future collaboration and career development."



Imad Alainachi (Canada)

XVI Panamerican Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering 2019 (Cancun, Mexico)

"In the conference, I have made many friends with researchers from different countries which will help me significantly in the near future in exchange of valuable ideas and thereby leading to possible research collaborations."



Kaustav Chatterjee (India)

XVI Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering 2019 (Taipei, Taiwan)

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"I was grateful for the career advice from senior professors and practising engineers."



Santhoshkumar Gunasekaran (India) on the left with Prof. Ikuo Towhata (far right)

XVI Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering 2019 (Taipei, Taiwan)

"...the conference allowed us to continue learning from recognized professionals worldwide and interact with them in order to share knowledge to put into practice in our daily work. The most important of these types of events is that it promotes the continuous education of all professionals in our area."



Jonathan Echevarria Vargas (Costa Rica)

ECSMGE 2019, "Geotechnical Engineering, foundation of the future" (Reykjavik, Iceland)

"I got an excellent opportunity to meet and talk to many professors, researchers and engineers from different countries and many other potential research collaborators as well."



Anna Kupreichyk (Ukraine)

27th European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference 2019 (Bodrum, Turkey)

"As a final year PhD student, this conference gave me immense opportunity to network with my peers and receive comments on my research work. ...I also received opportunity to network with professors working in research areas that bear similarity to my areas of interest and other geotechnical fields. Also, through the conference I got an opportunity to learn about research being carried out in different universities that can also help me improve my work and get an exposure of developments in other fields of earthquake geotechnical engineering."



Kavita Tandon (India),

7th International Conference on Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering, 2019 (Rome, Italy)

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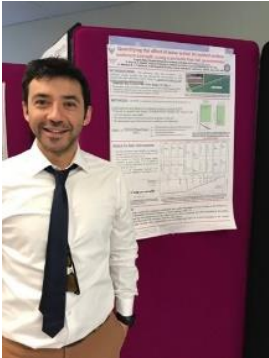
“Now I know more people and I have invitations from other conferences, which is great opportunity for my future research.”



Diana Egiazarova (Georgia)

China – Europe Conference on Geotechnical Engineering, 2018 (Vienna, Austria)

“CPT’18 allowed me to meet, network and learn from the world’s expert professional academics, researchers, consultants, practitioners etc. I also believe that participating this conference broadened my horizons in the field of geotechnical engineering by sharing and following the contemporary/state of art research and practices.”



Cagdas Bilici (USA)

4th International Symposium on Cone Penetration Testing, 2018 (Delft, Netherlands)

“The most important thing I learned is that as a young engineer, the confidence you gain from attending and presenting at international conferences is instrumental in making one a skilled and useful engineer and researcher.”

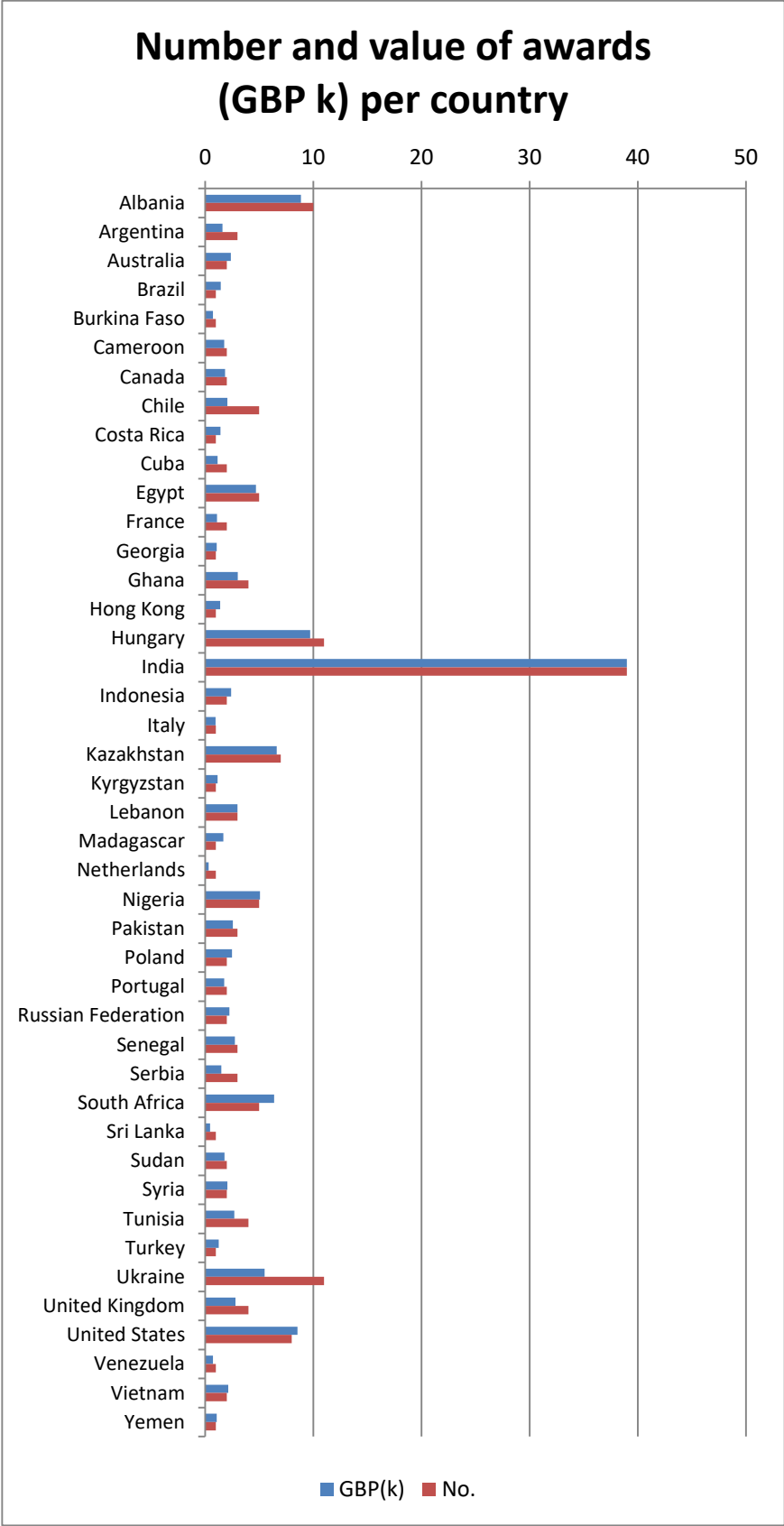


André Archer (South Africa)

8th International Conference on Physical Modelling in Geotechnics 2014, (Perth, Australia)

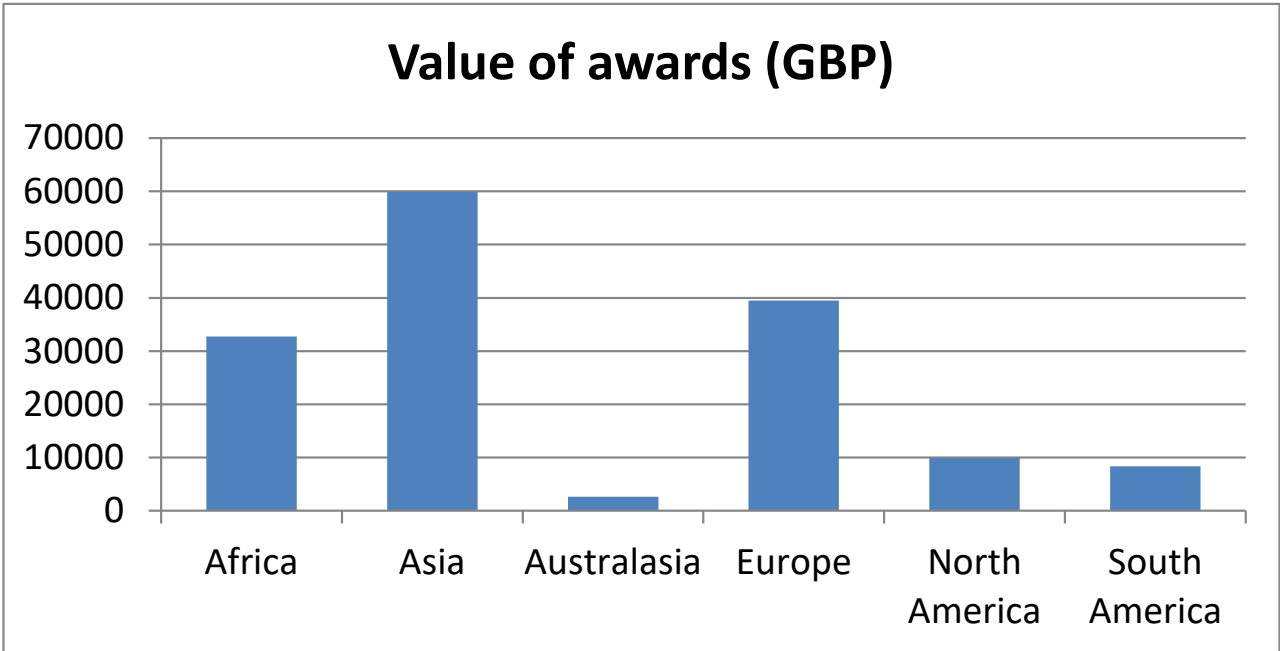
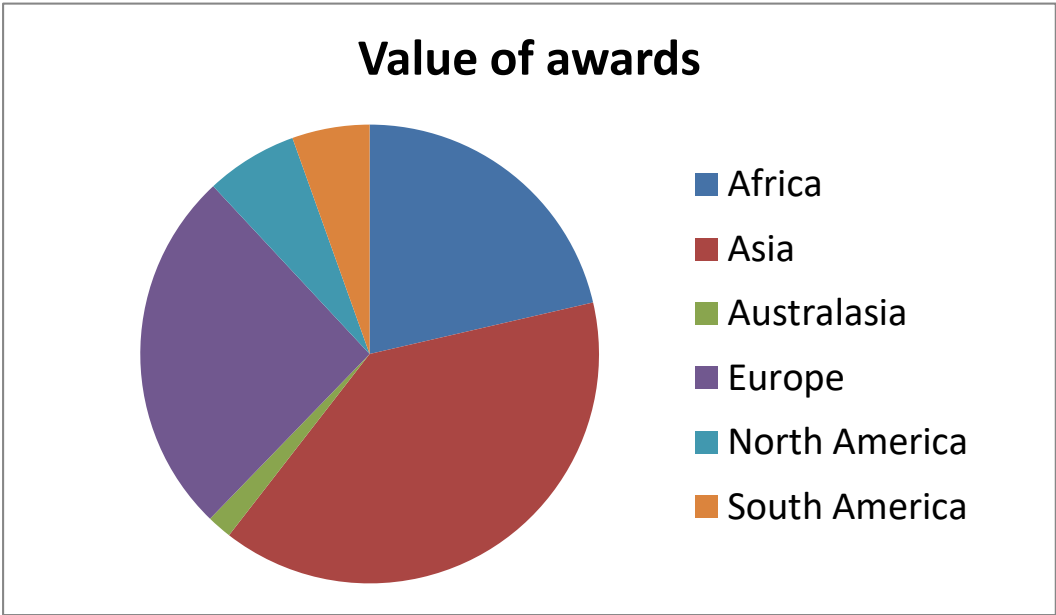
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Number and value of awards (GBP k) per country



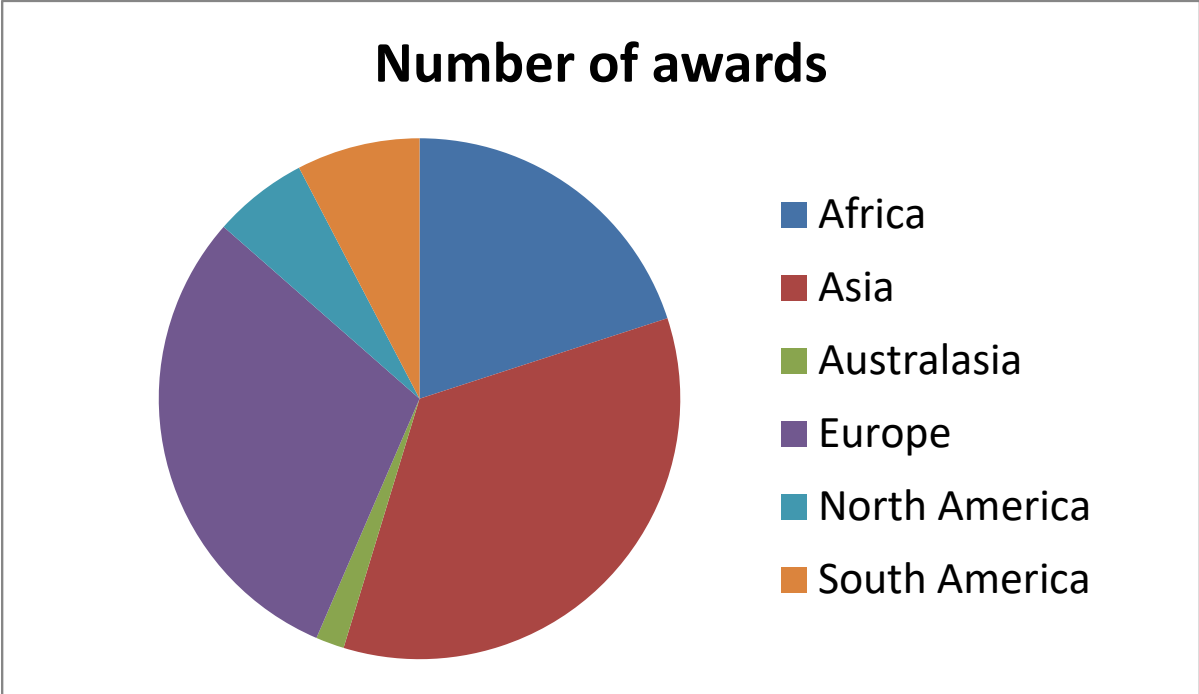
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Proportional Distribution of Value of Awards

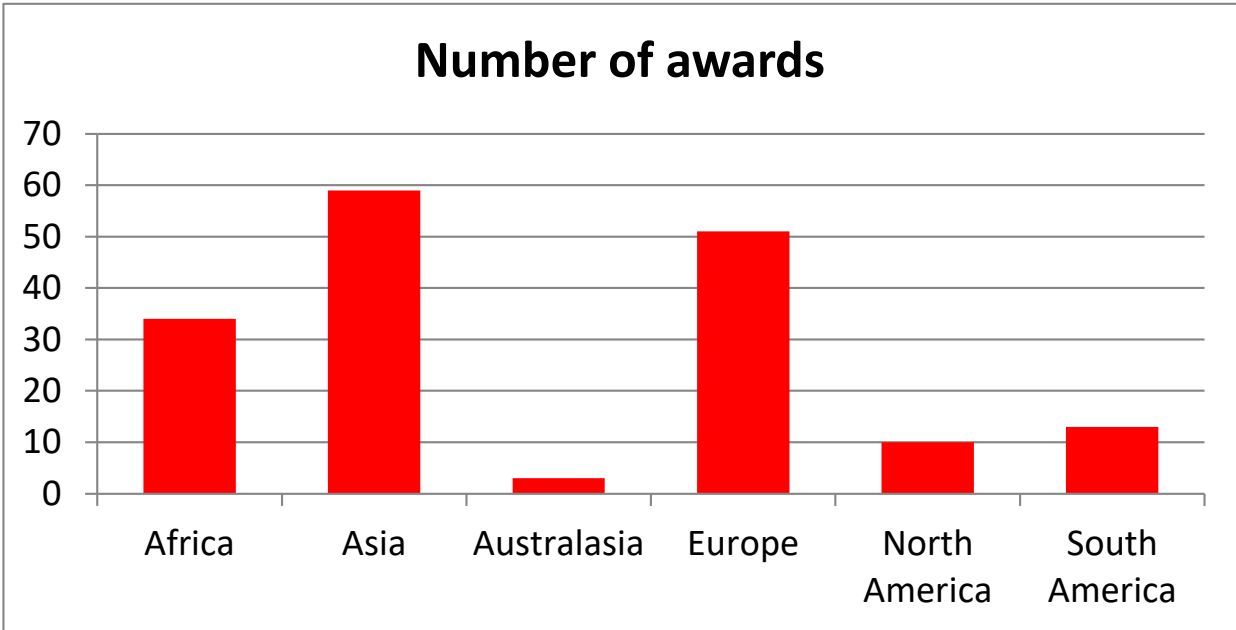


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Proportional Distribution of Number of Awards



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ISSMGE Foundation Accounts For the year ended 31 December 2019 (As submitted to the Charity Commission)

	Endowment Fund	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2019
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Donations	-	41,000	41,000
Income from investment portfolio	2,200	-	2,200
Bank Interest		576	576
Total incoming resources	<u>2,200</u>	<u>41,576</u>	<u>43,776</u>
EXPENDITURE			
<i>Costs of raising funds:</i>			
Investment management fees	1,584	-	1,584
<i>Expenditure on Charitable activities:</i>			
Awards made	-	31,289	31,289
Bank Charges	-	664	664
Total expenditure	<u>1,584</u>	<u>31,953</u>	<u>33,537</u>
NET INCOME BEFORE RECOGNISED GAINS	616	9,623	10,237
Net gain/(losses) on investments	6,868	-	6,868
Transfer between funds	<u>500,000</u>	<u>(500,000)</u>	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR	507,486	(490,377)	17,107
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	-	537,664	537,664
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>507,486</u></u>	<u><u>47,287</u></u>	<u><u>554,771</u></u>

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ISSMGE Foundation Accounts For the year ended 31 December 2020 (As submitted to the Charity Commission)

	Endowment Fund	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Donations	-	-	-
Income from investment portfolio	6,848	-	6,848
Bank Interest	-	-	-
Total incoming resources	<u>6,848</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,848</u>
EXPENDITURE			
<i>Costs of raising funds:</i>			
Investment management fees	4,597	-	4,597
<i>Expenditure on Charitable activities:</i>			
Awards made	-	4,384	4,484
Bank Charges	-	68	68
Total expenditure	<u>4,597</u>	<u>4,452</u>	<u>9,049</u>
NET INCOME BEFORE RECOGNISED GAINS	2,251	(4,452)	(2,201)
Net gain/(losses) on investments	23,703	-	23,703
Transfer between funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR	25,954	(4,452)	21,502
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	507,484	47,287	554,771
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>533,438</u></u>	<u><u>42,835</u></u>	<u><u>576,273</u></u>

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ISSMGE FOUNDATION DRAFT ACCOUNTS For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Endowment Fund	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Donations		40,000	40,000
Income from investment portfolio	5,830		5,830
Bank interest			
Total incoming resources	5,830	40,000	45,830
EXPENDITURE			
<i>Costs of raising funds</i>			
Investment management fees	4,945		4,945
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>			
Awards made		2,905	2,905
Bank charges		93	93
Total expenditure	4,945	2,998	7,943
NET INCOME BEFORE RECOGNISED GAINS	885	37,002	37,887
Net gain/(losses) on investments	40,273		40,261
Transfer between funds			
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR	41,158	37,002	78,160
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	533,426	42,835	576,273
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	574,584	79,837	654,421