

ACTIVITY REPORT 2009

Council Meeting, 19-20 March 2010, Mulhouse (FR)



European Physical Society
more than ideas



EPS ANNO 2009

Maciej Kolwas, President of the EPS

2009 was the second year of world financial crisis with slight hope of recovery. Governments have adopted 2 approaches to this problem: most try to cut expenses, including for research; a few try to invest in science as the best method to stimulate progress, development and future prosperity of society. Even the Copenhagen 2009 climate conference was not especially successful due to economic implications. Three issues need to be considered in the future world economic recovery & development:

- **Education of the next generations**, accompanied by promotion of science & engineering and scientific interest of the young population, accompanied by efforts to educate the whole population (promotion of science).

Science is not only at the heart of learning¹ but it serves as source of innovative, practical knowledge to maintain research & technological development. Knowledge stimulates growth of environmentally friendly industry on one side but it should also provide the basis for social development founded on understanding, not opinions.

It is fundamental for humanity to maintain a scientific (physical), realistic point of view on all phenomena, including economy, and climate as well as healthcare even culture. In this context many methods of education are essential. For example, conferences organised for exchange of knowledge and experience, and the education and training of scientists through appropriate doctoral studies. Another key is the constant in service training of teachers including cooperation of scientists with teachers². Last but not least let's mention context and inquiry based school teaching .

- **Great challenges** needing further research and technological development to address sustainable energy³, clean industry and the environment.

- **International & global cooperation** to analyse and inform society about global threats related to environmental change, possible sun activity, seismic activity, security of information transfer, the importance of physics for development for medicine and healthcare etc.

All other problems appear secondary to these three. Where is EPS placed from this point of view?

EPS Divisions and Groups, and Committees organise important professional activities in physics.

Divisions and Groups organised more than 11 conferences and gave 12 prestigious prizes to honour brilliant physicists, making their achievements more visible.

Committees worked on strategic problems ranging from education, conferences, grants, and publications to the future of our Society. The creation of the new EPS Young Minds Committee will increase interaction with the next generation of physicists.

The Executive Committee worked extensively on a new strategy to face challenges and adapt the Society to contemporary needs. The first effects can be clearly seen – new strategy, new web page, new face of EPN, growing impact factor of EPL, new committee and new Education Platform. The Secretariat with the Secretary General is preparing changes to adopt new work methods.

To conclude, let's mention **EPS finances**. The Executive Committee will not recommend an increase in membership fees despite of no increase for the past 5 years (leading to approximately 20% decrease of value due to inflation. This leads to the necessity for financial restrictions. This means that EPS must adapt its activities and services to members to be more in line with what the

expect, and to seek for alternative methods of financing.

Let me finish with my sincere thanks to all working for the EPS. Let me mention only a few: starting with the past presidents Martial Ducloy (Forum Physics and Society), Martin Huber (EPL), Ove Poulsen (Forum Physics and Society, Publishing Platform) through editors of EPN Claude Sebenne and Jo Hermans, the editor of EPL Volker Dose, all members of Executive Committee especially the outgoing members Angela di Virgilio, Victor Velasco, Victor Urumov, Peter Melville. And last but not least it is my pleasure to thank the past president Fritz Wagner. His energy and determination in conducting EPS has been an difficult example to follow.

Thank you Fritz!

I thank all people of office staff and Secretary General David Lee engaged in services to EPS.

NOTES

¹ Lisa Jardine BBC News Magazine 22 January 2010: http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/8474551.stm. Very interesting article about GB, but situation is much more critical in almost all parts of Europe.

² <http://fps.epscommittees.org>

³ The EPS, EuCheMS, E-MRS and the ESF organise the European Energy Conference, from 20-23 April 2010 in Barcelona. www.e2c-2010.org

Contents

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 04 | Executive Committee |
| 10 | Secretariat |
| | EPS Budget 2009 |
| 12 | EPS Committees |
| 14 | EPS Divisions and Groups |
| 18 | Publications |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Summary of activities

The Executive Committee is responsible for governing and representing Society and has the charge of all matters dealt with by the Society. Traditionally, the Executive Committee meets 4 times per year. One of its meetings is organised one day before Council to summarise reports, activities and to make its final preparations for the Council. To make the work of the Executive Committee more transparent as well as to report the manifold problems we have been dealing, below is a summary of its deliberations and activities.

The Executive Committee members in 2009:

President: Maciej Kolwas

Vice-President: Fritz Wagner

Treasurer: Colin Latimer
(co-opted in 2009)

Secretary: Victor Velasco

Regular Members: Marcis Auzinsh, Angela di Virgilio, Hendrik Ferdinande, Anders Kastberg, Martina Knoop, Ana Proykova, Klaus Wandelt.

To ensure the transition in EPS Treasurer, Peter Melville was regularly invited to Executive Committee meetings, as was Victor Urumov

I. Executive Committee

19- 200 June 2009 (Aarhus, DK)



The meeting concentrated on M. Kolwas' term as President and the improvement EPS impact followed by the third "*Journées de réflexion*" (to discuss the on main focus of EPS) and meeting with Danish Physical Society, followed by a regular Executive Committee meeting.

The "*Journées de réflexion*" started with Maciej Kolwas as President, outlining his proposal to concentrate activities on education and outreach, publications and communication and international cooperation. Four stimulating contributions to the discussion were delivered:

Peter Loosen: *Innovation and applied physics* – a view of the relation between fundamental and applied research
Sofoklis Sotiriou: *Inspiring learning in Europe* presented various initiatives to improve science teaching in Europe.

Stanislaw Bajtlik: *Media and Communication* provided an overview of science popularisation and communication.

Beth Taylor: *Gender equality initiatives* presented recent initiatives to increase the number of women in physics.

The main outcome of the "*Journées de réflexion*" was the proposal for new priorities for EPS activities: Education, Communication, Publications, International Relations including EU representation, Energy and environment.

The Executive Committee also met with representatives of the Danish Physical Society. A general discussion about the EPS and its relation to Member Societies followed a short presentation of outreach activities. Among the conclusions were:

- the main added value of the EPS is representation of physics in Europe, but the current EPS activities in this area need consolidation
- EPS should inform policy makers of the lack of qualified physics teachers, which will have a negative impact on the number and quality of students who decide to study physics at university
- EPS needs to consider how to help small societies maintain their structures.

Regular Executive Committee Meeting

The activities of Executive Committee members since the Council were reviewed: P. Melville helped to draft the new statutes for the Solar Physics Division. They are currently being discussed with S. Poedts, M. Huber and J. Krauterr to work out the cooperation with the European Astronomical Society.

M. Kolwas has contacted the International Physics Olympiad. The organisers for 2010 (the Croatian Physical Society) have been informed of the EPS grants for these activities. The EPS has also sponsored a prize for the International Physics Olympiad (Mexico 2009) and the International Young Scientist's Tournament (Tianjin 2009)

The Executive Committee agreed to provide student grants for a maximum

amount of Euro 5000 to attend Energy Conference in Stockholm in October 2009, organized by the Swedish Royal Academy of Science. The grants are for the winners of physics competitions. M. Kolwas will contact the various organisations.

A. Proykova reported on the status of a database collected for the Gender Equality Group. To avoid data protection problems, the list will be for internal use only. Other uses will need the agreement of people who are on the list. The list can be used by the EPS for example to provide candidates for co-editors, D/G board members etc. A. Proykova will write a report for EPN.

After dissolving the CMD Low Temperature Physics Section, a new group is becoming active, under the guidance of F. Wagner and H. Godfrin. There are physicists active in this field, and a new LT section will try to bring these together, including industry.

M. Huber reports that V. Dose will not extend his tenure as Editor in Chief of EPL beyond the regular 3-year term, which ends in 2011. EPL is currently searching for new EiC, with deadline for applications/nominations for November 2009. The appointment is expected in February 2010, with an overlap of 6 months with V. Dose.

The next "*Conférence Excpetionelle*" at the *Université de Haute Alsace* in Mulhouse will be on 19 November 2009, with C. Cesarsky, former Director General of ESO and currently High Commissioner at the CEA.

Council conclusions and comments

The Executive Committee discussed how to make Council more interesting and also adopted the proposal that as a general rule, EPS Council will be held in Mulhouse.

Publication platform meetings and conclusions

The publication platform meeting brought together representatives of the publishing arms of the IoP (IoPP), SFP (EDPS), SIF, DPG and Springer. The purpose of the meeting was to establish the scope and content of the platform. Small but real progress was made. The meeting established the Terms of Reference for the platform and proposed a series of activities that could be undertaken. The activities included a common website with

links to the journals in the platform; information, highlights; aggregated content, and some bibliometric/search tools. EPN could be used as the common denominator to focus attention on the content and information from the publishing platform. The next step is to validate these conclusions at the meeting of the MS Directors with another publication platform meeting in September.

EPL Strategy Days

M. Huber reported on EPL Strategy Days meeting. The EPL Board of Directors wanted to review the impact of its strategy that was decided in 2006 and put into place in 2007. Overall, EPL has made progress in the number of submissions, geographical and topical coverage, and in the number of institutions that have access to EPL. Although the overall quality is improving, work still needs to be done to reduce the acceptance rate. The most difficult challenge remains to convince the community that EPL is a viable alternative to PRL. Many actions were decided. The most visible will be to make sure that abstracts are high quality and readable, which will require the services of a science journalist.

Activities since the last Executive Committee Meeting

M. Auzinsh was the local organiser of the Forum Physics and Society Meeting in Ratnieki (LV).

M. Knoop together with A. Kastberg were active in finalising the EPS Open Access Position Paper.

A. Kastberg was involved in the organisation of the Scandinavian PS meeting held in June 2009. As a member of the EPJ SAC, he discussed the membership of EPS on the SAC and the membership of EPL. The SAC has decided that EPS could nominate its own representative, irrespective of that person's affiliation to other MS. EPL would not be invited to be a member of the SAC as it is comprised of physical societies and not journals. However, EPL would be invited to SAC meetings and the EPL EiC would be invited to comment on issues of common interest to EPJ and EPL.

V. Velasco has been in contact with the Royal Spanish Physical Society and the creation of a Spanish energy working group. The Executive Committee approved the translation of the EPS Position Paper "Energy for the Future" into Spanish.

V. Velasco will represent the EPS at RSPS meeting on gender equality.

H. Ferdinande has been active in preparing a possible EPS position paper on education and is collecting information on enrolment of physics students. He has also asked MS if they have a regular national meeting of the deans or representatives of physics faculties. At present, 6 countries have reported that they have these meetings. Many more countries probably organise such meetings but they are not related to the physical societies. He also attended the Bologna Process Project meeting where the final report was discussed. The EC has agreed to finance the project in 2009 and the work plan for the coming year was also discussed and will concentrate on the Phys Ma.

A. Proykova reported that the EPS Plasma Physics Division Conference will be held in Sofia. As reported above, she has also been active in establishing a database of women to serve in various capacities in the EPS.

C. Latimer has provided information on UK institutions to be included in the Large Facilities Technical Network.

D. Lee reported that F. Wagner has been active in organising the BP Study meeting in Prague, in establishing the members and content for the LFTN, and in the publication platform. He is also organising a workshop on wind energy in Greifswald and a meeting of the national energy working groups.

Position papers:

Open access

M. Knoop and A. Kastberg have completed the draft of the Open Access position paper and have included comments received at the Council. The main object of the PP is that OA publishing must be consistent with high quality scientific publication. Comments from the Executive Committee would be accepted until 22 June for finalisation by the end of June and publication in July.

Education

H. Ferdinande will pilot the next EPS Position paper on education. Among the themes to be developed are the need for high quality science education at secondary schools and the need for qualified physics teachers. Much information has been gathered but the structure of the PP has not been decided. Work is in progress and will include a review of the existing

EPS PPs on physics education and the recent report from the Forum Physics and Society meeting in Ratnieki (LV).

Forum for Science and Society comments and conclusions

O. Poulsen reported on the outcome of the meeting in Ratnieki. The full report is available at: <http://fps.epscommittees.org/archives/latvia/ratnieki-summary-report.doc/view>. The Executive Committee approved the report from the FPS meeting in Ratnieki (LV). EPS initiatives on education will now be concentrated in the Physics Education Division. The FPS will explore other issues and the next meeting to be held in Spain will focus on communicating science.

ASEPS actions

D. Lee reported that the organisation of the joint Asia Europe Physics Summit is ongoing. A meeting will be held in Shanghai in July to look at important agenda items to be included. In Europe, the EPS will organise a meeting of a programme group to provide additional elements. The ESF has agreed to send information on ASEPS to its member organisations as well as participate in discussions relating to the programme.

New list of MS contact persons and methods of cooperation with Member Societies

The Executive Committee discussed whether minutes should be posted on the web and be accessible to all who wish to consult them. There is little confidential information so there are no inherent barriers to doing so. D. Lee will present a plan of how to proceed with this initiative.

II. Executive Committee

9-10 October 2009 (Amsterdam, NL)



The Executive Committee meeting started with a presentation by Marcus Polnau, the Chairman-elect of the Quantum Electronic

and Optics Division represented who summarised the main activities of the division. He then presented the idea of launching the International Year of Light to highlight the central role that light plays in research and development. The Executive Committee agreed to present the proposal for the IYL to Council in 2010 for endorsement by the EPS. The Executive Committee agreed that the EPS would act as the central secretariat for the IYL. After endorsement by the EPS Council in 2010, support would be sought from IUPAP (2011), UNESCO (2012) and by the UN in 2013 or 2014. Other societies would be encouraged to support the proposal as well, including OSA, IEEE/Photonics, EOS, Eu-CheMS, E-MRS etc. Member Society optics groups would be encouraged to become involved in organising activities. The IYL could potentially be much broader than scientific research. It could for example be used for sustainable energy and saving electricity. It could also include the visual arts. The Executive Committee agreed that the EPS would act as the central secretariat for the IYL. The IYL is scheduled for 2015.

Marek Cieplak reported on the activities of the EPS Division of Physics in Life Sciences. The Board has been renewed and is active. The DPL has 117 members and efforts are under way to increase membership. The DPL has its own website (<http://info.ifpan.edu.pl/DPL/>), with information on conferences and workshops, physicists working in the field, journals etc. The DPL also prepares a newsletter that lists recent articles relating to physics and the life sciences. Articles from EPL should be included as well. The DPLS is working with the Condensed Matter Division to include topics in CMD23. Cross representation on the boards of these two divisions is recommended. The DPLS would like to create a prize to awarded at the CMD General Conference. The EPS is willing to help with the establishment of the prize. In order to enhance the visibility of the DPLS, a conference should be considered.

Olaf Scholten presented the activities of the Grants Committee and the Conference Committee. In order to better manage the selection process for sponsored conferences, a web-based workflow is currently being developed. The Grants

Committee monitors EPS grant schemes. These schemes exist to advance EPS policy goals, such as European integration, promotion of women in physics etc. The Executive Committee influences the grants that are distributed when it sets the strategy of the EPS. The Grants Committee should analyse the grants given in the autumn of each year and make recommendations to the Executive Committee on the grants for the following year.

Session with NNV representatives

Gerard van der Steenhoven, president of the Dutch Physical Society (NNV) summarised the NNV activity:

The NNV has around 3 600 members. Its two main activities are an annual conference open to all physicists in NL (not just researchers) and the NNV magazine "*Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Natuurkunde*". The annual income of the NNV is around 360 k€ of which 170 k€ come from members. The NNV pays the EPS around 27 k€. The NNV is working to strengthen physics research and education in the NL.

The number of students in physics declined sharply from 1992 to 2000 but the number has risen slightly since. The NL government is aware of the problem, partly due to a report prepared by the NNV and the deans of physics faculty and industry leaders and the NNV is now the coordinator for a national initiative to increase the number of students in physics. The NNV is also involved in revising the physics curricula at high school.

The EPS adds value to the NNV because it has a European scope, allows for the exchange of best practice, provides information on initiatives in other countries, and coordinates European activities.

The EPS lacks visibility in NL. More visibility would make it easier to justify the fees paid by the NNV. An annual report of EPS activities that could be published in "*Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Natuurkunde*" would be helpful. The EPS also needs to highlight its role in representing the physics community in Europe. The NNV should also regularly report on EPS activities at its board meetings and on EPS initiatives, such as the BP study. NNV members should be encouraged to read EPN and BNU.

During **regular session of EC** several items were presented and considered:

Activity Reports of: M. Kolwas, D. Lee, F. Wagner followed by Bologna Process Project advances, Publishing Platform development, EPS Strategy, EPS Finances, Structure of the Executive Committee, EPS Elections (EC and President), EPS Position papers in general and EPS Open Access Position Paper, A European Specification for Physics Bachelor Studies, Science Communication Officer Task description, Council format, and speakers, and EPS Energy Activities. Only a few points are summarised:

EPS Position Papers - General Decisions

As soon as Position Papers (PPs) are released, they are to be communicated as widely as possible, e.g. on the EPS website, hard copies sent to MS, press releases on web servers (Cordis, Alphagallileo), summaries published in EPN and sent to MS bulletins etc. All PPs need to be dated to provide a temporal context. PPs should be reviewed periodically and withdrawn or revised as necessary. All PPs need to be accompanied by an editorial in EPN. In future, the draft PP approved by the Executive Committee will be sent to MS and D/Gs inviting comments. A time limit will be set for replies. The Executive Committee can accept the comments and modify the PP. If the comments are rejected, they should be mentioned in a footnote, with the explanation why they are not in the PP and where they came from.

EPS European Specification for Physics Bachelor Studies

Executive Committee decided to prepare a document describing specifications for obtaining a Physics Bachelors Degree (Phys Ba). Various national initiatives were studied (e.g. UK and France) as well as those of other groups (e.g. STEPS). Many comments have been received from experts in the field of physics education and curriculum development. H. Ferdinande presented the draft "A European Specification for Physics Bachelor Studies" for comments from the Executive Committee.

H. Ferdinande also stressed the need to consolidate EPS activities in the field of physics education. It was decided to organise a meeting with the various stakeholders. M. Kolwas, H. Ferdinande and D. Lee would organise this first meeting in Mulhouse.

III. Executive Committee

29-30 January 2010 (Gent, BE)



Executive Committee were formally welcomed to Ghent University (*Universiteit Gent*) and learned about some of its current initiatives.

H. Dejonghe, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences welcomed the Executive Committee to Gent. At UGent, physics is taught in the Faculty of Sciences and in the Faculty of Engineering, where it is more applied physics. Physics is thriving at UGent, and the number of students has increased. The Bologna reforms have been implemented.

F. De Decker presented the *Ghent University Association*. Due to the educational reforms stemming from the implementation of the Bologna process, the Flanders region in Belgium has created 5 university associations to advise on and pilot educational reform. One of the aims of these associations is to increase scientific output and quality through cooperation. Addressing issues on this scale allows a wide selection of scientific courses for students. The AU-Gent Association has around 62 000 students (of which 33 000 are in Ghent), and 10 000 staff. Working through an association of universities also makes communication to regional government more effective.

Then Inge van Nieuwerburgh (head librarian, *UGent*) presented the activities of the UGent library with regards to open access. The UGent library started in 1818, and now has over 48 km of books in the main library. In addition to the main library, there are around 200 distributed libraries. UGent has been very involved in implementing and testing systems for electronic indexing and retrieval, with a philosophy of making documents open to all. UGent promotes the view that open access is important and wants to provide for free communication of scholarly works. To this end, the UGent open access repository began in 2004. It is involved in

EC funded projects related to OA, the most recent of which is “Openaire” funded through a grant from FP7. UGent has an OA mandate: all research as soon as it is published (*i.e.* final peer reviewed version) goes immediately into the university repository. Where publishers require limited access, the UGent library respects this through the implementation of embargoes for example.

UGent, using “Google books”, wants to make all books in its library OA. To avoid copyright infringement issues, currently UGent provides books published prior to 1870.

Regular Executive Committee Session

Maciej Kolwas reported that since the last Executive Committee meeting, he travelled 9 times where he had the opportunity to represent the EPS. Notably, he was in Vietnam where he met with representatives of the Vietnam Science Foundation. Collaboration with Europe and gaining international experience is important for them. He also travelled to San Sebastian in Spain where the university is engaged in many activities to link the general public to the science community. On his various trips to Mulhouse, he interviewed the candidate for the Scientific Communications Offices, planned meetings and activities. He attended the 2nd ASEPS preparatory meeting in Brussels and was in Paris to interview candidates for EPL Editor in Chief. Finally, he chaired the Presidents’ Meeting in Bologna. The issues discussed at the Presidents’ Meeting were summarised. While the work to develop an EPS strategy for the next few years is a good start, it does not highlight EPS role as a European advocate for physics. The IoP and DPG view it is one of EPS most important tasks. Moreover, the EPS needs to develop activities that add value to what the MS do themselves. Also, the general view was that the EPS strategy must be drafted with more input from MS (and other groups). The Presidents’ Meeting proposed that a working group be created and that a discussion be organised at Council. The Executive Committee discussed how the EPS should represent the physics community. Should it be comprised only of MS and work for them, or should it be an association of scientists? This is a basic conflict between who does the work (EPS IMs and Divisions and Groups, and

Committees) and who pays. These questions will be part of the strategy discussions. It is necessary to study structures that take into account the balance of power, and the needs for a fair representation of the large and small societies with appropriate ways of providing systematic input and reporting. It was noted that abilities to participate in EPS activities and engage in constructive dialogue with the EPS from MS is very disparate. The Executive Committee needs to be more proactive in contacting smaller PS and collecting useful input. This is done in part at Executive Committee meetings. The strategy should also consider means to make EPS more financially independent, *e.g.* through conferences, publication and bigger enrolment of Individual Members. ExCom agreed to include a discussion on EPS strategy on the Council agenda together with a proposal to form a working group to study EPS strategy and structure.

F. Wagner reported on:

Alliance for Physics Publishing

The mission statement is mostly complete and the final choice of wording should be completed shortly. The content of the platform website has been drafted, and needs to be transformed into work plan. The work remaining is to finalise the mission statement, and Terms of Reference, and to collect final commitments. A decision on the creation of Scientific Advisory Committee is necessary. If so, its first task would be to write a Code of Conduct of APP member. The governance of the APP and the relation to the SAC needs to be defined. The current APP working group should be given a mandate to define the timeframe and initial activity plan.

Energy Activities, E2C

The Energy Group met during the Wind Symposium that was organised in Greifswald (DE). This symposium had technical talks as well as a public lecture summarising the presentations. 10 members of the EG attended the first board meeting. A second board meeting is planned in Barcelona at the end of the European Energy Conference (E2C).

The current status of the E2C is that the plenary programme has been finalised and the parallel programme is about 80% complete. The overall organisation has been difficult, with very little support from the local organisers.

Large Facilities Technical Network

There are currently 31 institutes that have expressed interest in participating in the LFTN. To organise the work, the ISN (Oldenbourg, DE) is willing to set up a website that allows for the upload, organisation and consultation of the material related to the management of large research projects.

Joint Solar Physics Group

The Executive Committee approved the draft statutes of the Joint Solar Physics Group for submission to Council.

Forum Physics and Society

The next meeting of the Forum Physics and Society is planned in October 2010 in Madrid and will be devoted to science communication.

ASEPS

On 8-9 December 2009, M. Kolwas, H. Ferdinande and D. Lee attended the second preparatory meeting for the ASEPS conference, which will take place from 24-26 March in Tsukuba, Japan. The conference is co-sponsored by the EPS and AAPPS. The organisation is under the responsibility of D. Perret Gallix (CNRS) and Mitsuaki Nozaki (KEK, Japan). The programme at the time was still incomplete. Although it was proposed to postpone the meeting, the organisers were confident that they could complete the programme in time. The target is 150 participants, with invited talks and posters. One of the outcomes of the meeting will be a request to the EPS and the AAPPS to study appropriate methods to increase cooperation among the European and Asian physics communities.

Education Platform

There are currently many educational activities under the auspices of EPS, or related to the EPS. To be more effective, the coordination of these activities is desirable. M. Kolwas and H. Ferdinande organised a meeting in Mulhouse, inviting 14 individuals representing 12 organisations and projects involved in physics education. About half of those invited attended. The meeting concentrated on how to improve the exchange of information and to work with each other in order that activities in the future would be more harmonised and

coherent. The immediate goal is to raise awareness of the number of activities and projects in physics education. The group also agreed to review the EPS position paper on education and try and establish a common view. An idea of a joint activity would be a summer school for junior lecturers on effective teaching methods.

A European Specification for Physics Bachelor Studies

H. Ferdinande, working with an expert group has drafted a European Specification for Physics Bachelor Studies. The Executive Committee approved the document and decided that the document would be an EPS Report. It would be available electronically, with some paper copies (but not for sale).

Bologna Process Project

The first period of study of the BPP has been completed and the report published and distributed to MS and the participating universities. The second period of study is concentrating on the Master degree in physics (Phys Ma). The response rate to the questionnaire is 51% and there has been good input from the universities in 23 countries with regards to the curricula. The questionnaire is currently being analysed, and a preliminary report will be made during the partners meeting on 12-13 February in Kassel (DE).

EPS Young Minds

Armand Niederberger made a proposal to create youth groups in the EPS, called "Young Minds". The main purpose is to develop communities of young physicists that organise communication activities at the local level under the sponsorship of EPS. The EPS would provide logistical and financial support. The benefits to the EPS are increased IMs, increased visibility, and would provide the young physicists with European leadership experience and networking opportunities. The Executive Committee agreed to the creation of the Young Minds proposal.

Gero Thomas Prize

The Executive Committee confirmed that the prize is to be awarded annually and that MS, IMs, D/G should be urged to make nominations.

EPL

V. Dose explained that for EPL PACS capacity, each co-editor is attributed 10 points, which are distributed across PACS profiles described by each of them. This is used to determine whether there is an appropriate topical balance on editorial board and whether there is an appropriate mix from the various fields. EPL has progressed considerably in the past three years under the direction of V. Dose as Editor in Chief. Indicators that show this are the number of submissions, number of institutions that have access to EPL, and scientific quality. Looking at the immediacy index (*i.e.* the number of times an article is cited in the calendar year that it was first published in) shows a significant increase in the citations in EPL. The impact factor, to be published in July 2010 should also show significant improvement. Once this is announced, a write up of the achievements of EPL over the last 3 years should be published in EPN. The Executive Committee expressed its thanks to V. Dose for all of his hard work and devotion to EPL.

Nomination New EPL Editor in Chief

The Executive Committee approved the nomination of Michael Schreiber as the Editor in Chief of EPL succeeding the current EiC, V. Dose.

Meeting with divisions

Nuclear Physics Division

Z. Fülöp (Chairman) made a presentation on the activities of the Nuclear Physics Division. The NPD has around 300 members, and increasing this number is a priority. The NPD Board, comprised of active physicists, acts as an expert committee representing different fields, and countries with active nuclear physics communities.

One of main roles of the NPD is the advancement and dissemination of knowledge of nuclear science, as is part of the Public Awareness of Nuclear Science (PANS) initiative that was financed by the EC. The NPD awards prizes and organises conferences. Its prizes are the Lise Meitner Prize and the IBA-Europhysics Prize in applied nuclear science. Conferences include the Sandanski Conference series, to bring together nuclear physicists from Eastern and Western Europe, the Nuclear Physics in Astrophysics series,

with the 5th version to be organised in 2011, and the European Nuclear Physics Conference, which brings together all nuclear physicists in Europe. The NPD Board is involved in policy debates, it responded, for example, to the recent announcements of budget cuts in the UK. It also drafted a position paper on Energy for the Future – the Nuclear Option. The NPD is a member of the ESF Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee (NUPECC). The NPD would like to collaborate more with the nuclear physics groups in the MS. It is trying to draw up a list of key individuals in MS and to understand how the nuclear physics community is organised in each country.

Low Temperature Section of the Condensed Matter Division

H. Godfrin (Chairman) reported that he is working to revive the LT CMD. Low temperature does not refer to apparatus and should be viewed as involving many different fields of physics, *e.g.* quantum fluids and solids, ground states of matter, superconductivity, nano-science, magnetism etc... Nonetheless, LT forms a coherent community whose activities can be coordinated by the LT CMD. One of the places to begin recruiting members is at the conferences, beginning with the International Conference on Low Temperature Physics (ICLTP26 is planned in Beijing in August 2011). There are also smaller conferences in the field, including IC Quantum Fluids. There are very few women in low temperature physics. Attempts are being made to redress this situation through schools for physics students. Low temperature physics has many areas that would generate interest from the general public, *e.g.* the search for absolute zero. A stable and visible LT CMD in Europe would be used to build and coordinate activities from this community. The low temperature community is currently being served through an FP7 infrastructure project “MICROKELVIN”, which brings together facilities in the field. The proposal to form the LT CMD was presented at the meeting of the MICROKELVIN group in September 2009, with draft statutes.

High Energy Particle Physics Division

F. Zwirner reported on the activities of the HEPP, which is one of the first EPS

Divisions. It is well structured, with regular elections and turnover on the Board. The Board has 2 women members. Following the dissolution of the Joint Astrophysics Division, the HEPP has integrated astro-particle physics into its scope. Its main activity is the organisation of the HEPP conference, every two years (odd years). This is one of three general conferences in high energy physics in the world. The latest edition in 2009 was in Krakow, (PL) with 649 participants. The next conference is planned in 2011 in Grenoble (F).

The HEPP awards the HEPP Prize (since 1989). In 1991, the HEPP created the Young Physicists Prize for young physicists (less than 35 years of age) in the field of Particle Physics and/or Particle Astrophysics, the Gribov Medal for outstanding work by a young physicist (less than 35 years of age) in Theoretical Particle Physics and/or Field Theory, and the Outreach Prize for outstanding outreach achievement connected with High Energy Physics and/or Particle Astrophysics. In addition the HEPP supports outreach through sponsorship and grants for master classes. To structure the HEPP community, the Board has regular exchanges with European Committee for Future Accelerators, including cross representation on the Boards. The HEPP also has regular contacts to the Accelerators Groups. The HEPP is active in policy issues regarding HEPP, for example it sent a letter to the Austrian Science minister commenting on the proposed withdrawal of Austria from the CERN.

Member Societies and the physics community in general need to be more aware of the activities of D/G. From the above presentations, it is clear that much of the activity and impact of the EPS comes directly from D/G.

Meeting Belgian and Luxembourg Physical Societies Association luxembourgeoise des Physiciens (APHYL)

Fernand Wagner presented the “Association de Physiciens de Luxembourg” (APHYL). It is a small society, with 65 members, 55 of which are teachers. Areas where the EPS can benefit from the APHYL include the fact that its members are mainly school teachers. And their involvement in EPS activities related to physics education. The possible organisation

of the European Physics Education Conference with APHYL can be considered.

Belgian Physical Society

The President J. Tempere and the Treasurer S. Vandoorslaer attended the Executive Committee meeting on behalf of the Belgian Physical Society. The Board of the BPS has representatives from university, industry and secondary schools. Most of its members are academic physicists. It organises an annual general conference, with a young scientist contest and poster prizes. The BPS publishes an electronic journal called *Bφ*. It has created an ‘Energy Group’ and is involved in the energy activities of the EPS.

Organising activities in Belgium on a national level is difficult due to the Belgian federal structure. The BPS joins together the Flemish and French communities, and is a good example of national cooperation. The EPS is willing to explore with the BPS what activities could raise the visibility and impact of the BPS including using Belgium as a test case to increase the number of members.

EPS Strategic Priorities

Following the discussion in Aarhus (DK), and the Presidents’ Meeting, it is necessary to define a process that will examine what the Members of the Society consider to be the strategic priorities. A document describing the context and the opportunities available to the EPS and motivating the necessity to re-evaluate the EPS mission is to be drafted and presented to Council. The document will also describe the recent activity of the Executive Committee with respect to EPS strategy. M. Kolwas will pilot this process, with F. Wagner, C. Latimer and M. Knoop.

The Executive Committee is responsible for a set of activities and the D/G are responsible for another set of activities. The D/G give EPS its scientific credibility, and this should remain a key element of the EPS.

There are also core activities of the EPS, which include membership services, scientific activities, specific EU projects, representation and integration. The strategy working group needs to include an analysis of the EPS activities and suggest means to establish work plans and success control measures as well a budgeting process that allow prior consultation. The strategy group should also consider the governance structures of the EPS.

SECRETARIAT

There are 11.5 permanent staff members at the Secretariat. Of this staff, 1 is paid by the *Université d'Haute Alsace*, and 5.5 are working for and are paid through income from conference and editorial services. Effectively core staff working for The Executive Committee, MS, Committees and Divisions and web page consists of 5 persons plus the Secretary General.

The Secretariat provides institutional history, member management, secretarial, financial and IT services and logistical support for EPS activities.

Creation and hosting of websites is offered to all EPS D/G. The following additional services are also available: graphic design, content management systems (Zope, Plone), web tools (wiki, forms, forum, etc...) and a help line. The websites are currently hosted by the EPS for 5 Divisions (AMPD, CMD, PED, QEOD, SNPD) and 3 groups (EPCS, HoP, and PDG). In addition, The FPS and ACC also have websites at EPS. Among the new services implemented in 2009 include on line forms for reporting, and an on-line submission procedure for prizes. For 2010, service for on-line voting should be completed.

Conference services for EPS D/G are also available. All or part of the organisation can be handled by the EPS, including registration and payment, online submission and scoring and preparation of abstract book. In 2009, EPS Conference Services organised:

- **Nanometa 2009**, Seefeld, Tirol, Austria, 5 - 8 January 2009, 270 participants
- **Third Forum Physics and Society**, Ratnieki, Latvia, 15 - 16 April 2009, 44 participants

- **CLEO*/Europe-EQEC 2009**, Munich, Germany, 14 - 19 June 2009, 1509 participants
- **ECOSS 26**, Parma, Italy, 30 August - 4 September 2009, 600 participants

The Secretariat provides **Editorial Services for EPL**. In 2009, a total of 1870 submissions were received. The median time from submission to decision was 75 days. EPL published 861 papers in 2009 and 4712 pages.

The Secretariat coordinates **EPS involvement in European projects**. In 2009, the EPS was involved in the following projects: **Coordinator of the EPS Bologna Process in Physics Studies**

A study of the implementation of the Bologna reforms in universities offering physics degrees. In 2008 the Bachelor degree in physics was studied; in 2009 the Master degree in physics was studied.

COSMOS

Participation, dissemination

A project to create a tool for science teachers to share teaching material. It includes the development of tools for the uploading and generation of keywords. The project ended in 2009, with no reservations from the European Commission.

Learning with Atlas at CERN

Participation, dissemination

Learning with ATLAS@CERN portal is an experimental laboratory for students, teachers and science museum visitors, aiming to improve science instruction by expanding the resources for teaching and learning in schools, universities and science centres & museums, providing more challenging and authentic learning experiences.

Join the Learning with ATLAS@CERN educational community and explore new ways of teaching science!

Conférences Exceptionnelles

Normally two "*conferences exceptionnelles*" organised together with our host, the Université de Haute Alsace are organised each year. These lectures (in the French language) by prominent scientists are intended to stimulate the interest in science of students in the Haute Alsace, who are preparing their "*baccalauréat*" or are in their first University semesters. The spring lecture, foreseen with Nobel laureate Albert Fert, had unfortunately to be cancelled, because of a transportation strike, the fall lecture by the former Director General of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) and current "*Haut Commissaire à l'Energie Atomique*", Catherine Cesarsky on "*Lumières et poussières dans les galaxies*", however drew a large audience.

Exchange with the Chinese Physical Society (CPS)

The exchange of speakers with the Chinese Physical Society for mutual conferences brought former EPS President Martial Ducloy as invited speaker with the topic "Optics and Interferometry with Matter Waves" to the General Fall Meeting of the CPS in Shanghai in September 2009. The counter-visit of the exchange took place in September as well, namely at the meeting of the Polish Physical Society in Krakow. The Chinese delegation comprised four scientists, and the Vice-President of CPS, Prof. Chuang Zhang of the Institute of High Energy Physics (Chinese Academy of Sciences) gave an invited talk, on a topic from the field of particle accelerators and high energy physics.

EPS BUDGET 2009

The figures pertain to estimates, subject to change after auditing
Total expenditure is estimated at Euro 994 043.

Total income for the year is estimated at Euro 1 123 781.

Growth in income in 2007 is due to conference organization.

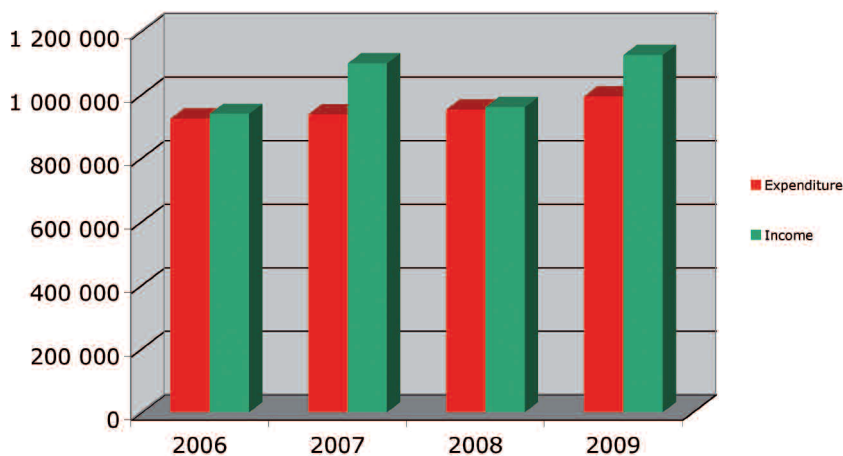
EPS Budget 2010

New elements in the 2010 budget will be: changing and updating the website;

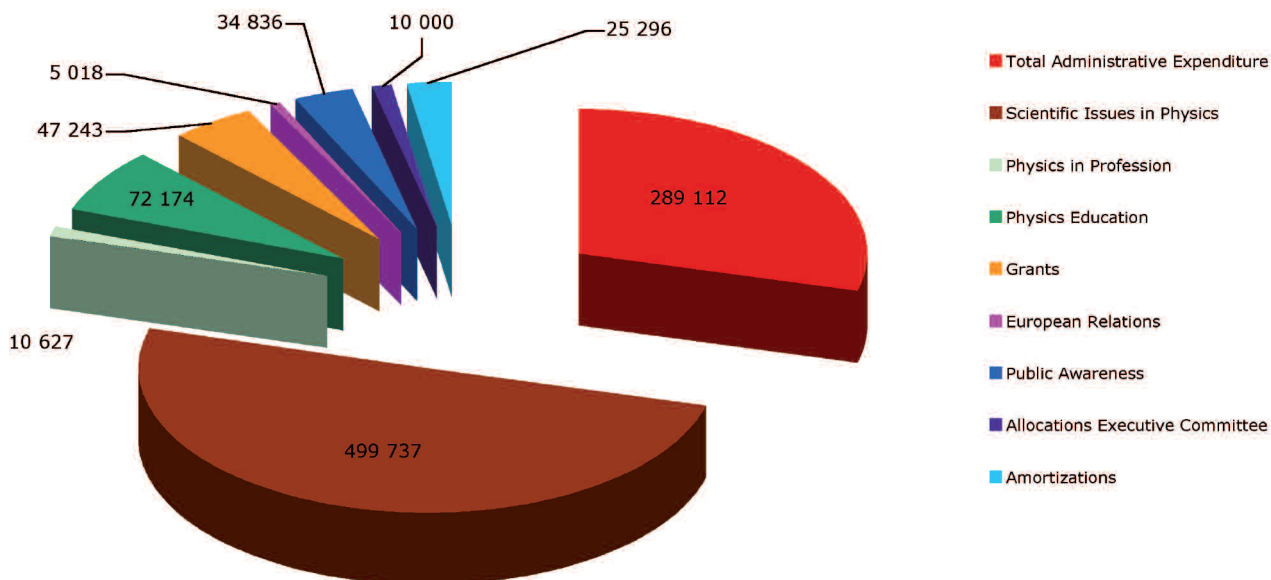
Young Minds; Alliance for Physics Publishing; and the Education Platform. A service similar to the Brussels News Update needs to be considered.

However no significant changes in budget are expected.

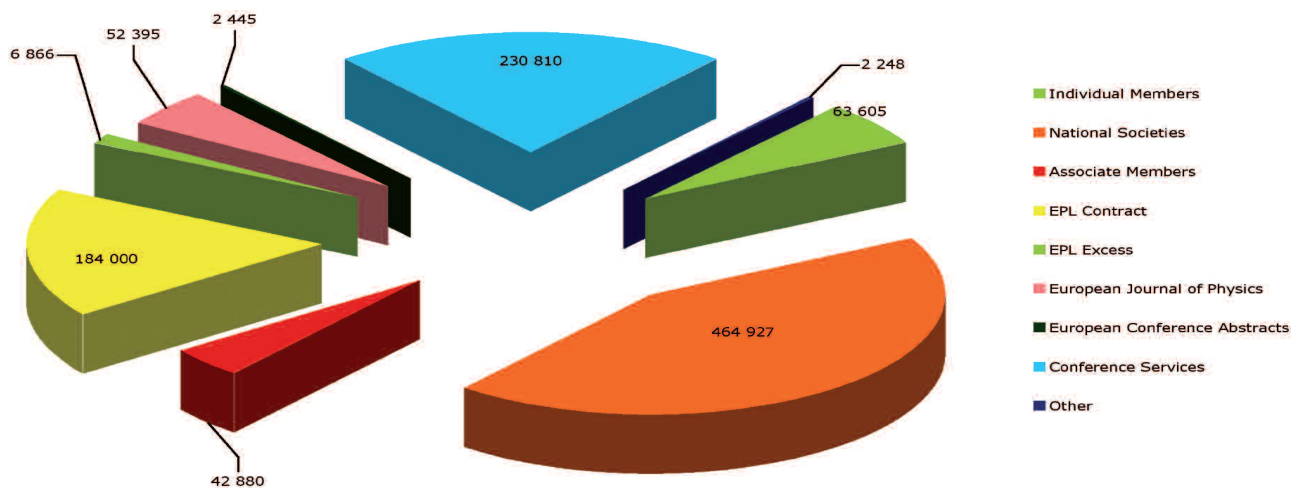
EPS INCOME AND EXPENDITURES



COMPOSITION OF EXPENDITURE



COMPOSITION OF INCOME



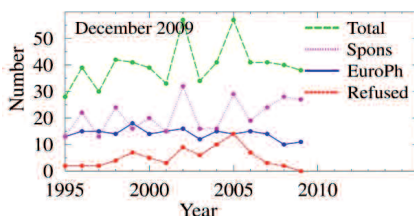
EPS COMMITTEES

Committees are established by the Executive Committee to implement specific aspects of EPS strategy. Committees are responsible for implementing programmes and projects of the EPS.

Conference Committee

Chairman: Olaf Scholten

The conference committee is responsible for collecting and disseminating information on EPS Europhysics Conferences (i.e. conferences organized by EPS D/G), and for evaluating applications to obtain the label of EPS Sponsored Conference.



In the figure the number of Europhysics and Sponsored Conferences and schools are given as well as the number of rejected applications since 1995. The number of Sponsored as well as Europhysics Conferences has stabilized. The number of conferences that apply for EPS status is however much smaller than the actual number of conferences that are being held of which many would qualify for EPS status.

Conferences Grants

The EPS makes grants available to conference organizers to allow for the participation of young scientists in their meeting who otherwise would not be able to attend. Over the years 2008 and 2009, and, respectively, 56 and 58 conference grants were approved. Only about half of the total of all Europhysics and Sponsored Conferences have asked for this kind of support.

Invited Speaker Grants

The EPS makes grants available to conferences organized by EPS Divisions and Groups in all fields of physics to cover costs of invited speakers to a maximum of 1000 Euro. Probably because of the rather strict conditions, which are imposed upon receiving this grant (The awardees must be internationally renowned speakers and

also write a contribution to Europhysics News) only few grants have been requested and 2 have been awarded over 2009.

Gender Equality in Physics

Chairman: Ana Proykova

The Gender Equality in Physics Committee was established following the first IUPAP Women in Physics Conference. It informs and advises the Executive Committee on issues relating to women in physics.

The EPS has been a member of the European Platform of Women Scientists (www.epws.org), funded as a project by the European Commission 2005-2009. Three physicists (Claudine Hermann, Ana Proykova and Gillian Gehring) were on the founding board of 12 and physics was very well represented. The project life of the Platform is over. Now it is a self-supporting network.

The last event was the *EPWS Annual Conference Scientific Culture, Communication, Gender - An Innovative Challenge for Women Scientists* held in Brussels, Belgium, 25-26 June 2009. The Conference was organised in collaboration with BeWiSe - Belgian Women in Science (<http://bewise.naturalsciences.be/>). The goal was to provide an overview on the variety of communication skills and tools in science and research, including the management of networks; to encourage women scientists to join the – so far male dominated – ranks of those active in the field; to actively communicate and promote their research results using their specific communication abilities and making full use of their potential in this respect.

Women in Physics Working Group

Elisabeth Rachlew and Ana Proykova organized a session on Women's Career in Large Research Infrastructures during the EPS Plasma Physics conference June 29-July 3, 2009, Sofia, Bulgaria (<http://eps2009.uni-sofia.bg/progr/programme1202.pdf>). The session was well attended. The journal INFOWEEK (in Bulgarian) published an article devoted to the event.

A database – *senior women in physics* is constantly updated. (contact: Ana Proykova, anap@phys.uni-sofia.bg)

The Mobility Committee

Chairman: Stig Steenstrup

Established in 1984, the Mobility Committee administers the European Scheme for Physics Students (EMSPS). The Mobility Committee is responsible for the award of EPS University Student-Fellowships

In March 2009 a meeting was held in Mulhouse where the principles for grants were decided. As the Budapest secretariat was closed down, sending out Broadcasts was not done, so the possibility of grants for excellent students were not sufficiently advertised.

The EMSPS web page is in the process of being re-established at the Mulhouse website. It links to all of the universities participating in EMSPS universities. The mailing list of the coordinators has been updated, and a broadcast is sent out.

Grants Committee

Chairman: Olaf Scholten

This committee was created in 2007 to make the EPS grants systems more dynamic and better serve their purpose of increasing the visibility of the EPS. To this end the committee critically reviewed the existing granting schemes of the EPS. A new system of grants was installed starting January 2008. In some cases the new grants resemble the old ones while others are new initiatives. A set of criteria has been defined to judge if a particular grant fulfils its objective.

University Student Fellowships

The EPS wishes to award University Student Fellowships intended normally for students enrolled in Masters courses (second cycle, post Bachelor, pre-PhD) as recognition of academic excellence for promising young physics students. Grants are normally for a full academic year (10 months max). One grant was awarded in 2009.

Grants for Pre-university International Physics Competitions

The EPS provides grants to organizers of international physics competitions (Olympiads, tournaments and another international contests or other international events) promoting physics based on work of school students. 3 grants were awarded in 2009.

Special Regional Projects

The EPS is willing to consider financing activities that fall outside the existing grant schemes. These grants should not normally be used to finance events that have been (or would be) disqualified from other granting schemes. The grants are for physics-related events with an international dimension. EPS participation is necessary. These grants are available to national societies and regional societies for special physics activities with an international scope. One grant was awarded in 2009

Conferences Grants

The EPS makes grants available to conference organizers to allow for the participation of young scientists in their meeting who otherwise would not be able to attend. 23 conferences were supported in 2009.

Invited Speaker Grants

The EPS makes grants available to conferences organized by EPS Divisions and Groups in all fields of physics to cover costs of invited speakers. 4 grants were awarded in 2009.

EPS Poster Prize

Grants are available to EPS Europhysics conferences for a poster prize, to make an award to a student who has presented the best poster at the conference. 3 grants were awarded in 2009

Actual spending over 2009

| 2009 | Spending |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| EPS Student Fellowships: | 6,018 € |
| Pre University IPC: | 2,000 € |
| Special Regional Projects: | 4,500 € |
| Conferences Grants: | 17,775 € |
| Invited Speaker Grants: | 4,000 |
| EPS Poster Prize: | 1,000 € |

EPS Student Fellowships

A single grant is distributed while there was funding for more. The main reason for this is that there was no active advertisement campaign for this grant, except mentioning it on the EPS website.

Conferences Grants:

In total 58 grants were allocated, due to incomplete bank information only 49 were distributed. Only about half of the requests are granted, primarily based on the size of the meeting.

EPS Poster Prize

Also in this case some of the grants could not be distributed because of incomplete banking information. Several requests have been received from non-Europhysics meetings which had to be turned down.

Conclusions

One can conclude that most of the granting systems are being recognized in the community. A more active advertisement campaign would nevertheless be beneficial as it would bring publicity to the EPS. The EPS does not have any instrument to know to what extent this program has directly attracted new members which is of interest to judge the success.

Committee on European Integration (CEI)

Chairman: Jaroslav Nadrchal

The CEI was created in 2008 to advise the Executive Committee on the situation of physics in countries on the periphery of the EU.

In 2009, the CEI sponsored the IPSEC meeting that was organized in Krakow at the opportunity of XL meeting of Polish physicists. There were 30 participants, with representatives of national physical societies of Belarus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine, and representatives of national physical societies of People Republic of China and Republic of China (Taiwan), and representatives of EPS.

Prof. Jerzy Langer gave the presentation *The Framework Programme and Beyond* about the known activity of EU as an ad hoc EU commission prepared proposals for its future organisation. Prof. H. Szymczak criticised in his contribution the EU- concept *Regional Scientific Infrastructure* because it would lead to a kind of two-speed Europe.

EPS supported (on the proposal of CEI) the meeting financially, however, most expenses were covered by the Polish Physical Society.

Action plan for 2010:

1. Report on the situation of physics and physicists' societies in the countries of Eastern Europe inc. of those who are not members of EPS and in the Mediterranean

area – mainly in North Africa. It was recommended by the EPS President. North Africa will be investigated with help of PDG.

2. Members of CEI would communicate mostly by e-mail, but some mutual visits in concerned countries would be useful (on invitations, eg. for conferences and meetings of national societies).

3. CEI will be prepared to subsidize members of Division/Group boards from concerned countries whose expenses for board meetings cannot be paid by other sponsors. The support would be possible not more than once a year.

4. CEI will support the participation of young physicists from concerned countries in international competitions, e.g. in the physics section of the ICYS conference (EWTF supported ICYS until 2007). 9th international competition EUSO (European Union Science Olympiad) that will be held in the Czech Republic in 2011 may be supported in 2010 or 2011.

Forum Physics and Society

Convener: Ove Poulsen,

Chairman: Martial Ducloy

The aim of FPS is to *establish a more active EPS role in the relation of physics to society, taking seriously the challenge of maintaining a strong and critical dialogue between physicists and decision makers from policy and economics.*

Defining ourselves as the EPS outreach body, we aim at catalyzing such development through workshops and meetings, gathering decision makers and physicists to put the spotlight on topics of interest to both society and to the physics community.

The Forum website <http://fps.epscommittees.org/> gives the major update of the Forum general activities.

Forum Physics and Society – Ratnieki, Latvia, April 2009

The third Forum Physics and Society event took place in Ratnieki, Latvia 15-16. April 2009.

The meeting brought together 44 science teachers and researchers from schools, universities and industry, scientists involved in teacher training as well as decision makers in science policy from 16 European

countries. They discussed the role and the aims of preuniversity science and physics education in Europe. Invited keynote speakers supported the discussions by in depth analysis of selected issues. The discussions focused firstly on the worrying situation concerning teacher training both at elementary school level as well as on the upper secondary school level, secondly the observation that most countries share the same educational challenge and finally the more serious fact, that no country yet has clear policy to solve these problems. The challenge involves society as a whole. Society depends on scientifically literate citizens. Science, and physics particularly, are central to many professions outside the sciences and physics is a driver for modern science both conceptually as well as in the advancement of novel technologies.

The forum overall agreed on a series of *recommendations*, which are essential for science teaching to be successful in raising science literacy and in maintaining science, in particular physics, as a driver for development of many professions and for physics to continue to be a driver within the sciences as well as an innovation catalyst in society at large.

The overall recommendations focus on the role of national agencies and European institutions to address problems associated with the worrying situation on particularly elementary school teaching. FPS *recommends* that national agencies and European institutions

- maintain and improve the quality of physics teaching
- agree on an increasingly higher standards for the training of physics teachers
- strengthen and coordinate applied educational research at all levels across Europe
- ensure rapid deployment of the results and best practices of educational research and experimentation
- establish regular contacts between universities and the physics teaching community
- ensure interaction and co-operation between all three educational levels: *Elementary – Secondary – University*
- ensure appropriate budget for the support of such program

National Physical Societies are asked to start a discussion process in their country with decision makers in science policy as well as with teachers, to ensure dissemination of the recommendations.

Specific recommendations

The overall recommendations are supported by more specific recommendations relating to the diverse roles played by physics in the educational system. Physics teaching must be geared to students' ages, abilities and degree of specialization (where initially physics may be taught as a topic in a family of learning comprising science literacy and, later for those more interested, as a discipline in its own right).

These questions were dealt with on two broad levels, but effectively in three categories:

- physics for all - as part of culture (science literacy)
- further physics studies
- for the interested students - with a professional dimension (for careers not necessarily connected with science)
- for the selected - with a science outlook

Dissemination

The recommendations from the Ratnieki meeting has been disseminated in various ways

- distribution to national societies (stronger coordination needed)
- presentation in EU meeting (ERA meeting, Brussels 21-23. October 2009)

EPS DIVISIONS AND GROUPS

EPS has 11 Divisions, covering each of the specific fields of physics research. The 6 Groups look at questions of common interest for all physicists such as Physics for Development, and Technology. EPS

Divisions and Groups organise many of Europe's leading physics conferences, allowing members of the European and global physics community to share their research and exchange with their col-

leagues. They also award many prestigious prizes and are involved in policy debates and physics outreach.

▼ Prizes Awarded in 2009

| Prize | Laureate | Division |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|
| EPS HEP Prize | Gargamell Collaboration | HEPD |
| EPS HEP Outreach Prize | Herbert Dreiner and Michael Kortmann | HEPD |
| Gribov Medal | Freddy Cachazo | HEPD |
| EPS HEP Young Physicist Prize | Maurizio Pierini and Niki Saoulidou | HEPD |
| IBA-Europhysics Prize in Applied Nuclear Science and Nuclear Methods Medicine | Pier Andrea Mandò | NPD |
| Hannes Alfvén Prize | Jürgen Meyer ter Vehn | PPD |
| Quantum Electronics Prize: Fundamental | Alain Aspect | QEOD |
| Quantum Electronics Prize: Applied | Thomas Ebbsen | QEOD |
| Fresnel Prize: Fundamental | Tobias Kippenberg | QEOD |
| Fresnel Prize: Applied | Romain Quidant | QEOD |
| EPCS Prize | Le Gei | EPCS |
| EPS PED Secondary Teaching Award | Slavomir Tuleja | PED |

| Conference | Place | Participants | Division |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| EGAS | Gdansk (PL) | 250 | AMOPD |
| GIREP/EPEC | Leicester (UK) | 120 | PED |
| EPS HEPD General Conf | Krakow (PL) | 650 | HEPD |
| ENPC | Bochum (D) | 900 | NPD |
| CLEO Europe/EQEC | Munich (D) | 1500 | QEOD |
| Nanometa | Seefeld (A) | 270 | QEOD |
| Wind Energy Symposium | Greifswald (D) | 40 | EG |
| ICALEPS | Kobe (Japan) | 575 | EPCS |
| ICHS | Budapest (H) | 70 | HOP |
| NPA IV | Frascati (I) | 70 | NPD |
| ECOSS | Parma (I) | 635 | CMD/Surface Science |

Cooperation

EPS Divisions and Groups establish and maintain contacts to the global physics community and to many other physics related organisations. These include to the UN Group on Earth Observation (EPD), OSA and IEEE/Photonics (QEOD), IUPAP (CPG), and ECFA (HEPD).

Gender Equality

Approximately 30 women physicists are members of EPS D/G Boards. Only EPCS has equal representation, followed by the HOPG with 36%.

◀ Conferences Organised in 2009

EPS DIVISIONS

Atomic Molecular and Optical Physics



Chairman

- Henrik Cederquist

Sections

- Electronic and Atomic Collisions
- Chemical and Molecular Physics
- European Group on Atomic Systems

Conferences

- European Conference Atomic and Molecular Physics (ECAMP)
- European Group on Atomic Systems Conf. (EGAS)

Website

- <http://ampd.epsdivisions.org/>

Prize

- EPS CMD Europhysics Prize

Website

- <http://cmd.epsdivisions.org>

Education



Chairman

- Robert Lambourne

Conference

- European Physics Education Conference (EPEC)

Prize

- EPS PED Secondary Teaching Award

Website

- <http://education.epsdivisions.org>

Condensed Matter



Chairman

- Eoin P. O'Reilly

Sections

- Liquids
- Macromolecular Physics
- Magnetism
- Semiconductors And Insulators
- Surfaces And Interfaces

Conferences

- CMD General Conference
- Liquid Matter Conference
- EDM Macromolecular Physics
- Joint European Magnetism Symposium
- ECOSS

Environmental Physics



Chairman

- Herbert Fischer

Conference

- under consideration

Prizes

A draft charter for an EPD award has been established aimed at a prize for young scientists and a medal for lifetime achievement in Environmental Physics. The coming period 2010-2012, sponsors are to be identified.

High Energy and Particle Physics



Chairman
• Fabio Zwirner

Conference
• HEP General Conference

Prizes
• The High Energy and Particle Physics Prize
• The Young Physicist Prize
• The Gribov Medal
• The Outreach Prize

Website
• <http://eps-hepp.web.cern.ch/eps-hepp/>

Conference
• EPS Plasma Physics Division Conference

Prizes
• EPS-PPD Hannes Alfvén Prize
• EPS-PPD PhD Research Award
• EPS-PPD Innovation Prize

Website
• <http://plasma.ciemat.es/>

Joint Solar Physics



Chairman
• Stefaan Poedts

The JSPD is a joint Division with:
• the European Astronomical Society (EAS) and
• the European Physical Society (EPS)

Website
• <http://soho.estec.esa.nl/SPS/>

Physics In Life Sciences



Chairman
• Marek Cieplak

Conference
• under consideration

Website
• <http://info.ifpan.edu.pl/DPL/>

Nuclear Physics



Chairman
• Zsolt Fülöp

Prizes
• Lise Meitner Prize (Nuclear Science)
• IBA Europhysics Prize (Applied Nuclear Science and Nuclear Methods in Medicine)

Highlights/News:
• <http://nuclear.epsdivisions.org/highlights-1/>

Website
• <http://nuclear.epsdivisions.org/>

Quantum Electronics and Optics



Chairman
• John Dudley

Conferences
• EPS-QEOD Europhoton meetings
• CLEO/Europe – EQEC
• Nanometa

Prizes
• Quantum Electronics Prize
• Fresnel Prize
• 4 QEOD thesis prizes
• PhD student oral and poster prizes were introduced into the Europhoton conference series

Website
• <http://qeod.epsdivisions.org>

Plasma Physics



Chairman
• Carlos Hidalgo

Sections
• Beam Plasma And Inertial Fusion Section
• Dusty And Low Temperature

Statistical and Nonlinear Physics



Chairman
• Stephan Fauve

Conference
• Applications of Physics in Financial Analysis

Website
• <http://statistical.epsdivisions.org/>

EPS GROUPS

Accelerators



Chairman
• Oliver Brüning

Conferences
• International Particle Accelerator Conference

Prizes
• EPS Accelerator Achievement Prize for outstanding work in the accelerator field
• EPS Accelerator Prize for recent significant contributions
• EPS Accelerator Prize for an individual early career researcher for recent significant contributions
• EPS Accelerator Prize for PhD or equivalent for the quality of their work
• EPS Accelerator Prize for student poster

Website
• <http://epac.web.cern.ch/EPAC/EPS-AG/Welcome.html>

Computational Physics



Chairman
• Peter Howard Borchers

Conferences
• Conference on Computational Physics
• Biennial Granad Seminars in Computational Physics

Prizes
• Berni Alder CECAM prize

Energy

This Group is currently being formed



Chairman
• Thomas Hamacher

Conferences
• National Energy Group Seminar
• European Energy Conference

Prizes
• under consideration

Website
• under consideration

Experimental Physics Control Systems



Chairman
• Roland Mueller

Conferences
• International Conference on Accelerator and Large Experimental Physics Control Systems (ICALEPCS)
• Current Trends in Data Acquisition and Controls of Accelerator (CTDCA)

Prizes
• EPCS Prize

Website
• <http://epcs.epsdivisions.org/>

History of Physics



Chairman
• Peter Maria Schuster

Conferences
• International Conference for the History of Science

Website
• <http://history.epsdivisions.org/>

Physics for Development



Chairman
• Francois Piuze

Conferences
• Examining proposal to create a European Conference on Science and Development

Prizes
• Examining proposal to create Instrumentation Award for African Scientists

Website
• <http://igpd.epsdivisions.org/>

Technology



Chairman
• Jan Vaagen

Conferences
• under consideration

EPS PUBLICATIONS

Europhysics News

Report 2009



Editor:
C. Sébenne

Science Editor:
L. J. F. (Jo) Hermans

Europhysics News is the news magazine of the European Physical Society. It is sent out to all IMs, AMs and most member societies. It is distributed in over 50 countries, in 25 000 copies every two months.

The format of EPN changed in 2009 to A4, a slight increase allowing for a more pleasant presentation, leaving the designer Xavier de Araujo free to increase the proportion of illustrations, both in size and number.

The features and highlights section are well developed, with interesting articles from many different fields. Highlights as well are popular with the contributing journals and authors. The "Highlights" section has grown from 21 summaries in 2006 to 66 in 2009. The news section needs to be enhanced, with more short contributions from National Societies and EPS Divisions, Sections, Groups, Committees and others.

EPN is freely available on the web. This makes it available not only to all European physicists but also to everybody in the world. The statistics of the web visits look very encouraging. As an example, the table left shows total downloads for 2009

| | PDF |
|--------------|---------------|
| January 09 | 3 394 |
| February 09 | 2 354 |
| March 09 | 3 038 |
| April 09 | 1 871 |
| May 09 | 2 176 |
| June 09 | 3 063 |
| July 09 | 2 131 |
| August 09 | 2 231 |
| September 09 | 2 306 |
| October 09 | 3 261 |
| November 09 | 5 289 |
| December 09 | 3 143 |
| Total | 34 257 |

EPL

Report 2009



Editor in Chief:
Volker Dose

Science Editor:
Graeme Watt

Journal Production

Submissions: 1877 submissions were received during the year. This is only marginally up from the 1842 received during 2008. Preliminary trends for 2010 show a significant increase in submissions.

Published authors are on the increase from Germany and the USA, together with minor increases from Brazil, China, Poland and Sweden. Some reduction in publications from France and Italy is evident this year.

Publications: 853 articles were published during 2009 compared with 847 during 2008 and 600 in 2007. The total number of pages published (including Editorials, posters, highlights and other non-article material) during 2009 was 4712, a minor rise from the 4648 pages in 2008.

The median acceptance rate is 46%, which is 1 percentage point higher than for 2008. The acceptance rate varies considerably amongst the different PACS codes however. **Production:** the median processing time from acceptance to online publication was 30 days for this year. The acceptance to print time is 50 days.

Download Statistics

The two complete years of 'standard' data from 2008 and 2009 are remarkably similar with an average around 40,000 full-text downloads each month.

Citations

High-temperature iron-based superconductivity articles dominate the top slots for numbers of citations. This year will produce the first ISI impact factor that is truly representative of the new publishing Agreement. A quick calculation on the ISI website for articles published in 2007 and 2008 provide tentative indication of an impact factor significantly above the 2.2 that EPL/Europhysics Letters has held for the past 10 years.

The top 15 most-cited articles from the past two years are on iron-based superconductors. The first non-superconductor article arrives at number 16 and is concerned with creating hy-

drophobic surfaces and materials by installing small vertical posts on the surface to prevent water drops from wetting the material.

Subscriptions

The number of institutes with access to EPL is over 1500.

European Journal of Physics

Report 2009



Editor:
A. Rae

Submission and Acceptances

2009 has been a successful year for *European Journal of Physics*, with an increase in the number of articles submitted to the journal and accepted for publication. We received 604 submissions in 2009 compared to 573 in 2008. Similar to previous years Asia continues to be the highest region in terms of submissions with 160 articles submitted for 2009. Contrary to 2008 there was a significant increase in the number of articles submitted from Eastern Europe with a total of 63 submissions compared to 45 submissions the previous year. The number of papers submitted from both North America and the UK has remained constant with 68 vs. 69 papers submitted from North America and 16 vs. 15 from the UK. Despite a drop in the number of papers submitted from Western Europe with 112 for 2008 vs. 98 for 2009 there was a slight increase in the number of letters submitted from 8 to 16 so that the total number of submissions was 120 for 2008 and 114 for 2009. 187 articles were accepted for publication in 2009 compared to 154 in 2008.

Downloads and publication details

In 2009 a total of 1,760 pages were published, this included the publication of two special features one on Nanotechnology, and the second on Physics Competitions.

An area of significant growth

for the journal in 2009 was in the number of downloads which has risen from 15 500 per month for 2008 to 18 200 per month in 2009. The 2008 impact factor is 0.625, up 3% on 2008.



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