

ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

Presented to EPS Council, 16-17 May 2025



European Physical Society

more than ideas

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| President's Report | **Mairi Sakellariadou** |

INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was honoured to start my Presidency of the European Physical Society at the beginning of last year. I would like to thank you all again to have entrusted me with this important role. During the 2023 EPS Council meeting in Porto, I presented a list of dreams for the role of EPS. I may summarise the developments of EPS during the last year, as a mid-term account, in reference to the objectives stated in my EPS editorial (EPN 55/2) of April 2024.

Strengthen the position of Europe

On the basis of the existing EPS Energy Group, we have set up an extended panel in charge of producing an update of a previous EPS document (published in 2015) addressing priorities in the energy landscape, taking into account efficiency, affordability and sustainability for the production and management of energy. After being submitted to the Council for approval, it will be distributed to policy-makers, industry, economic sectors, and

the general public. Progress in producing this important document is slow given the diverging views on the matter.

Orient scientific policy in Europe

I represent EPS in the Executive Committee of ISE (Initiative for Science in Europe) whose aim is to design and implement European science policies. EPS has common vision with the ISE and shares a number of common goals.

I joined the “Transatlantic Big Science Conference” in Berlin (November 2024), as well as the “Falling Walls Science Summit 2024” (November 2024). EPS is invited to take a leading role in their next meetings.

I participated in a panel discussion organised by the Italian Physical Society (SIF) during their congress (September 2024) together with the President of the American Physical Society and representatives from France, Germany, Italy and ICTP. The panel discussed events to be scheduled during the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology.

At the occasion of the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, an opening ceremony was organised (January 2025) at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris and EPS was one of the sponsors of this event. Subsequently, EPS and a number of national Physical Societies released a statement entitled “Europe and the future of quantum science”.

We have commissioned an update to the report The Contribution of Physics to the Economies of Europe, covering six years, 2018 to 2024. This will be released later in

2025 and will be useful to inform debate around the next European Union Funding Programmes.

To reinforce the role of EPS within policy makers in Europe, our next step will be to recruit a Policy Officer, whose role will be to support the EPS in its interactions with policy makers of the European Union in Brussels.

Adapt higher education to fast changing professional demands

We established a working group in charge of updating the EPS document (Bachelor in Sciences and Master in Sciences published respectively in 2009 and 2010) on higher education degrees in Physics within Europe. Our aim is to make recommendations about the necessary requirements for a degree in Physics and indicate good practices to enrich the skills of students and adapt them to the fast-changing job market. This document will subsequently be distributed to all relevant stakeholders.

Maintain and reinforce the role of EPS in Europe and beyond

EPS maintains its support and membership to the Earth-Humanity Coalition, within the framework of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024-2033).

Our Young Minds (YM) were very successful with the organisation of 84 events across different locations in Europe.

We supported the International Physics Tournament held in Zürich (April 2024) and the Physics League Across

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Numerous Countries for Kick-ass Students (PLANCKS) which took place in Dublin (May 2024).

The EPS contributed to a programme of physics outreach at European music festivals which reached over 16 000 people in four countries.

We reinforced our partnerships with the Balkan Physical Union (BPU). In particular, we supported the Balkan Physics Olympiad in Montenegro (June 2024) and the “First Balkan student Summer School on Astronomy and Astrophysics” held in Thessaloniki (August 2024).

Continuing our Physics for Development activities, we supported the conference of the Union of Physicists from Portuguese Speaking Countries (Uniao de Fisicos de Paises de Lingua Portuguesa -UFPLP) in Coimbra (September 2024).

In the framework of the APS-ICTP-EPS Travel Award Fellowship Programme (ATAP) aiming at supporting short-term research visits to laboratories in Europe and North America from active early-career scientists from developing countries, we funded visits of three scientists from Cuba, Nigeria and Palestine visiting Institutions in Brazil, Canada and France, respectively.

We have committed to prolong the ATAP programme until 2027.

We have secured funding from Acinque S.p.A to reintroduce the Volta Physics prize, managed and organised by the EPS, aiming at recognising the best European physicist every two years. The Volta prize was suspended after 2020 due to lack of sponsors.

Other accomplishments

- The EPS Historic Sites programme was successfully continued. Three new EPS Historic Sites were inaugurated: Institut für Physik der Universität Graz, Accademia Galileiana di Padova and the City of Göttingen.
- EPS has a completely new EPS website. This is an important improvement for the image of our Society. Moreover, the database of our members (including subscriptions and fees) is now in order.
- We have setup meetings with the Chairs of EPS Divisions and Groups to foster synergies. Plans for co-organisation of events between divisions and groups with thematic affinity are in progress.
- With the support and hospitality of the German Physical Society (DPG), we have met the Presidents of European National Physical Societies and the President of the American Physical Society (APS), to trigger a dialogue with our member societies.
- We have continued supporting conferences and meetings organised by our divisions and groups, as well as members societies. We have in addition reinforced the EPS conferences team in Mulhouse, to provide all administrative support for the organisation of conferences and large meetings. Three out of the fourteen conferences organised by the EPS Divisions and Groups were administrated by the EPS team at our headquarters.
- We have produced the book entitled “EPS Grand Challenges - Physics for Society in the Horizon 2050” to address “the world’s physics agenda to solve at the horizon 2050”.

My warmest thanks to our Divisions and Groups for organising top-quality international conferences in 2024. Many thanks also to the various EPS Committees for all their activities. I am grateful to EPS Secretariat members in Mulhouse and in particular our Secretary General, Dr Anne Pawsey, for their work and collaboration. Special thanks to the EPS Executive Committee members for their continuous support and dedication, in particular to Ian Bearden, Luc Bergé, Roberta Caruso, Anna Lipniacka, Stuart Palmer, and Andreas Schopper whose mandate comes to an end ■

Notes

Honorary Secretary's Report | **Ian Bearden** |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES 2024

The Executive Committee of the European Physical Society (EPS) develops the EPS policy, discusses ongoing activities, financial matters, future plans, and puts in practice effective strategies to improve the visibility and impact of the EPS. The committee is chaired by the EPS President Mairi Sakellariadou.

The executive committee met 8 times in 2024, 7 times virtually and once in-person prior to the EPS council in March. Mairi Sakellariadou has put in place a system of frequent shorter executive committee meetings and the committee met online on average once every 2 months. Each member of the committee is responsible for maintaining links to Divisions, Groups and Member

Societies. These links are summarised in the table below.

The Executive Committee employ the Secretary General, in this role the Honorary Secretary Ian Bearden and the Honorary Treasurer Stuart Palmer carried out Anne Pawsey's 2nd annual review in November 2024.

The President and the executive committee have also co-ordinated meetings with division and group chairs and presidents of national societies. The aim is to foster collaboration between the different organs of the EPS.

The executive committee has been involved in supporting the Secretariat, in particular with the creation of a new website

and new membership database. A working group to update the EPS specifications for Physics degrees has been created involving experts from across Europe. The executive committee has commissioned a report on the Importance of Physics to the Economies of Europe which will appear later this year. The APS-EPS-ICTP-FECS ATAP travel fellowship continues to be a success and has been extended for a further 3 years.

The Honorary Secretary Ian Bearden and the Secretary General Anne Pawsey along with volunteers from young minds participated in an outreach project supported by the EPS and the CERN and Society Foundation which combines physics with music festivals across Europe. ■

EX. COM. MEMBERS	COMMITTEE, DIVISION, GROUP, PUBLICATION	MEMBER SOCIETY
Ian Bearden	Equal Opportunities Nuclear Physics Division Energy Group History of Physics Group Europhysics News	Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden
Christian Beck	EPS Conferences Committee Statistical and Non-linear Physics Division Computational Physics Group	Israel, Slovenia, Turkey
Roberta Caruso	Young Minds Atomic Molecular and Optical Physics Division Quantum Electronics and Optics Division EJP	Armenia, Georgia, Moldova
Eugenio Coccia	Gravitational Physics Division	Bulgaria, Romania, Spain
Anna Di Ciaccio	High Energy and Particle Physics Division Physics for Development Group	France, Macedonia North, Montenegro, Serbia
Alessandra Fantoni	Physics Education Division Division of Physics in Life Sciences Accelerators Group	Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Italy
Anna Lipniacka	Joint European Solar Physics Division	Hungary, Iceland, Norway, Slovakia
Katharina Lorenz	Plasma Physics Division Condensed Matter Division	Portugal, Ukraine
Stuart Palmer	Technology and Innovation Group	UK
Andrea Schopper	Forum Physics and Society Environmental Physics Division	Austria, Belgium, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland
Karin Zach	Committee on European Integration	Czech Republic, Germany, Poland

Secretary General Report | Anne Pawsey |

ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat of the European Physical Society is headquartered on the campus of the Université de Haute Alsace, in Mulhouse, France.

The Core Secretariat provides administrative services to the EPS, including accounting, graphic design, and information technology. Among the main tasks are the preparation of *Europhysics News* and *e-EPS*, website maintenance and design, financial control, invoicing *etc.* The Secretariat also supports Divisions and Groups, and the activities of EPS Committees and Working Groups, the Executive Committee. European relations, relations with other societies, communications, outreach, policy monitoring and EPS involvement in EU projects are also part of activities of the Core Secretariat.

Averaged over 2024 the office employed 12.58 FTE in 3 main areas: Core Secretariat

(5.7) Conference Services (3.88), and the EPL Editorial Office (3).

The secretariat continues to evolve, Patricia Helfenstein retired as Conference Manager in August 2024 and Manon Coqueberg her assistant left in April 2024. We therefore welcome a new conference team Milan Milicevic and Adriana Zerfera reinforced by Amy Guibal. The Secretariat also participates in the project Discovery Space, which aims to develop AI support for remote and virtual Laboratories. Michael Gregory joined us in May 2024 as project officer. He has been busy delivering teacher training both in-person and online.

A major project of the Secretariat has been the renewal of the EPS website. This was a significant project, consisting not only a new cosmetic appearance but a complete restructure of the content, the first since 2012. The next step is to transition to a

new membership database, improving the communication between all EPS members.

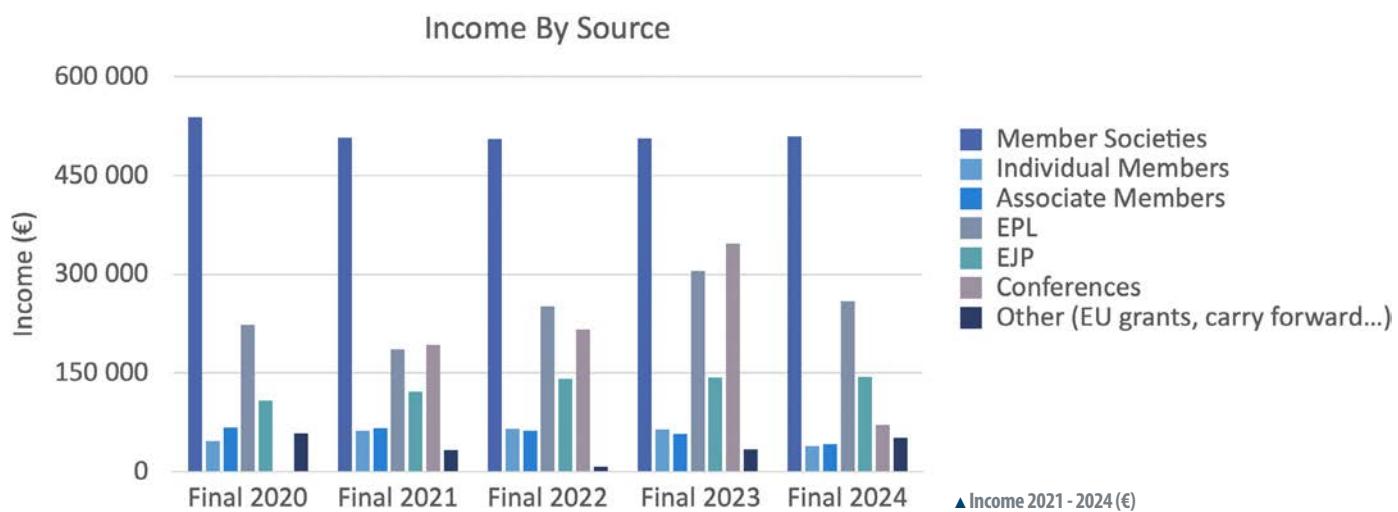
The conference services department provides a full range of services for conferences organised by EPS Divisions and Groups. These include committee management, web site design and maintenance, communication, onsite logistics, online paper submission and maintenance, budgeting, *etc.* Patricia contributed to her final conference in the form of Ultrafast Phenomena held in Barcelona at the end of July. The new team handled Europhoton, in Vilnius at the end of August. Preparations are already well underway for CLEO-Europe/EQEC which will take place in Munich at the end of June.

EPS headquarters in Mulhouse also houses the EPL editorial office, with F. Burr as Staff Editor and two editorial assistants. In 2024, the EPS Editorial Office handled 832 manuscripts ■

Notes

| EPS Honorary Treasurer's Report | **Stuart Palmer** |

FINANCIAL REPORT 2024



The overall financial result of 2024 was inline with the budget. The income (not including division and group activities) for 2024 was Euro 1 210 142.31, 49% from Members, 33% from publication activities and 6% from conferences and 12% from other activities. The expenditure for 2024 was Euro 1 296 973.48, 44% for administration and governance, and 56% for activities. The activities of divisions and groups resulted in a net income of Euro 90 329.94. The outcome for the year is an excess of Euro 8 124.57.

Income from Individual Members and Associate Members was lower than expected in 2024. The reduction in individual membership fees results from a change in the constitution, open invoices are closed

at the end of the financial year instead of at the end of the next one and this results in a reduction in reported income. Several Associate members reduced or stopped their payments citing budgetary constraints.

The reserves of the ICPEAC conference series previously held externally to the EPS have been transferred to EPS along with a VAT refund linked to the 2023 edition of ICPEAC following the close of the accounts of the 2023 edition of the conference. ICPEAC was adopted as a section of AMOPD in 2020.

Significant expenses in 2024 were the payments for the Grand Challenges Book and the EPS Forum. There was also a temporary increase in salary costs associated

with the retirement of the EPS conference manager and the need to use temporary staff to cover the long term sick leave of an employee.

The Grand Challenges Book was printed this year, this was a one off cost of Euro 46 287.40.

The EPS Forum held in March represented an investment of Euro 58 330.02, or Euro 18 445.02 excluding staff time. This investment allowed a low registration fee for student attendees of 25€ and the provision of accommodation and travel bursaries to 61 students. All students who requested financial support received it. Two hundred of the four hundred attendees were students who benefitted from this support.



PHYSICS AT MUSIC FESTIVALS

In 2024 the EPS partnered with the CERN and Society Foundation to support a programme of physics outreach at European Music Festival. The aim is to bring physics to where the people are and it ran at four major music festivals across Europe. WOMAD in the UK, ROTOTOM in Spain, the Colours of Ostrava in the Czech Republic and Smukfest in Denmark. The typical audience member does not normally attend science events or have a science background so these events are a great way to promote physics and physicists. Typical audience feedback is that the event changes the perception of physics and physicists.

The broad programme included a panel discussion on electric vehicles, participatory workshops, presentations of the latest developments at the LHC, the history of physics linked to the film Oppenheimer, the risks of AI impersonation, practical workshops for attendees to build a solar mobile phone charger and a performance of musical Tesla coils.

The EPS supported the attendance of 20 speakers and volunteers at these events including a delegation of 6 of the Young Minds who supported the Spanish event. Ian Bearden spoke at Smukfest and Anne Pawsey gave two talks at WOMAD. The activity was widely shared on social media

The activity saw impressive attendance across all of the festivals at Smukfest in Denmark 3800 visited, Rototom in Spain saw 5800 attendees, Ostrava in the Czech Republic 4000 and Womad 4900.



THE EPS FORUM

The second edition of the EPS FORUM was held at the Freie Universität Berlin 25th to 27th of March.

After more than a year of preparation the EPS FORUM welcomed 405 registered participants, coordinated by 8 EPS staff members and 9 student helpers. 213 master, PhD students and postdoc fellows from 35 different countries attended this second edition of the Forum. In contrast to its first edition in Paris (2022), this event hosted a majority of early career researchers (53.2% of attendees), mainly coming from outside the EPS community.

This lively event included in a series of conference sessions, round tables and formal and informal networking. Three Nobel Prize winners, Anne L'Huillier, Stefan Hell

and Klaus von Klitzing presented their latest research. European Commissioner Iliana Ivanova gave an opening speech. Over 70 people spoke at the event.

The EPS forum involved the secretariat and the EPS divisions and groups; specifically:

- The Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics Division,
- The Condensed Matter Division,
- The High-Energy and Particle Physics Division,
- The Quantum Electronics and Optics Division,
- The Statistical and Nonlinear Physics Division,
- The Technology and Innovation Group,
- The Nuclear Physics Division.

The aim was to bring together early career researchers with industry figures and leading physicists. There were eleven exhibitors including start-ups, publishers and research centres and the coffee breaks were full of discussion between exhibitors and attendees. The Young Minds leadership meeting ran in parallel to the forum and they joined a lively structured networking session highlighting potential future career paths.

Students were supported to attend the event with low registration fees and a travel bursary plus free accommodation.

The EPS council was held on the final day of the event.



THE EPS WEBSITE

The EPS secretariat has revamped the EPS website, the new version was published at the end of March 2025. As the first major overhaul of the site in more than a decade the new site is modern and mobile responsive. This site is a showcase of the EPS and its activities. The next step of the project is to overhaul the members area of the site, to improve contact between members. This work will be carried out in 2025.

EPN

Dr Antigone Marino took over as the Editor in Chief of EPN from Prof. Els de Wolf in the spring of 2024. Dr Marino has a long history of contributing to EPS through various roles and initiatives. In 2010, leveraging her experience from founding the International OSA Network of Students (IONS) in 2007, she collaborated with EPS to establish the Young Minds (YM) project. This initiative aimed to support the professional development of young physicists across Europe. Under her leadership as chair from 2013 to 2016, YM expanded from five groups in three countries to a network encompassing over 40 groups in more than 20 European nations. In recognition of her outstanding leadership and active promotion of the YM project, EPS honored Dr. Marino with the Achievement Award in 2017. In 2024 she contributed to the book EPS Grand Challenges with a paper on "Sensors and



their applications" for the chapter "Physics for secure and efficient societies".

At EPN Dr Marino aims to continue the ideas of mini-themes introduced by Els de Wolf and add some twists of her own. One innovation is the introduction of "Infographysics" which explain key physics concepts in graphical form.

Dr. Antigone Marino is researcher at the Institute of Applied Sciences and Intelligent Systems (ISASI) of the Italian National Research Council (CNR).

She earned her master's degree in Physics in 2000, and a PhD in 2004, both at the Physics Department of Federico II University of Naples, in Italy.

Her research has primarily focused on soft matter optics applied to telecommunication, with a particular interest in liquid crystals technologies. In recent years, her work has expanded to structured light and quantum technologies.

EPL

Professor Richard Blythe took on the role of EPL Editor in Chief in May 2025. He took over from Alessandra Lanotte who stepped in as interim Editor in Chief for the first trimestre of 2025.

Professor Blythe has first-hand insights into a range of scientific publishing traditions due to the interdisciplinary nature of his research. He has served extensively as a reviewer and editorial board member, and has created teaching modules designed

to introduce undergraduate students to aspects of academic publishing including the peer review process. At EPL, he aims to build on the respect that the journal holds within the physics research community, serving both authors and readers by bringing its best work to a broader audience.

Professor Blythe holds a Personal Chair in Complex Systems at the University of Edinburgh. He is a statistical physicist by training, having been inspired by

undergraduate courses on the topic during his Erasmus exchange year in Germany to study a PhD in nonequilibrium statistical mechanics. Following the award of his PhD, he held a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Manchester, where he was introduced to applications of statistical mechanics in biological and cultural evolution. Over his career he has published over 80 papers in physics, biology, linguistics and cognitive science journals.

REPORTS BY EPS ACTION COMMITTEES

EPS HISTORIC SITES COMMITTEE | Chair: Karl Grandin

The year of 2024 saw only one addition of an EPS Historic site. It was the physics institute in Graz, commemorating the 180th birthday of Ludwig Boltzmann. Although there was only one inauguration in 2024 a few others are scheduled for 2025. So, the history of physics in Europe is not exhausted yet, far from it.

One EPS Historic Site was inaugurated in 2024. Up to December 31, 2024, 110 nominations have been received by the EPS Historic Sites Committee. Proposals can be made at any time from the EPS web site (link below). Of these proposals, 75 EPS Historic Sites have been inaugurated in 26 different countries at the end of 2024. The full list consists of:

1. The Goldfish Fountain of the Physics Institute of Panisperna Street – *Centro Fermi*, Rome, Italy, 20 April 2012
2. Laboratory “Les Cosmiques”, Col du Midi, Chamonix, France, 23 July 2012
3. Hoza 69, Warsaw, Poland, 10 January 2013
4. The Study of Bruno Pontecorvo – JINR, Dubna, Russia, 22 February 2013
5. The Hill of Arcetri, Florence, Italy, 17 May 2013
6. The Villa Griffone in Pontecchio Marconi, Bologna, Italy, 26 May 2013
7. The Observatory of Tycho Brahe, Hven Island, Landskrona, Sweden, 11 September 2013
8. The LAL-LURE Accelerator Complex, Orsay, Paris, France, 13 September 2013
9. PTB, Formerly PTR, The National Metrology Institute, Berlin, Germany, 8 October 2013
10. The Cathedral, Kamien Pomorski, Poland, 11 October 2013
11. The Neutrino Experiment at MTA Atomki, Debrecen, Hungary, 25 October 2013
12. The Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark, 3 December 2013
13. The AdA Storage Ring at the INFN Frascati National Laboratory, Frascati, Rome, Italy, 5 December 2013.
14. The European Birthplace of the Atomic Timekeeping – NPL, Teddington, UK, 31 January 2014
15. The Blackett Laboratory, London, UK, 30 April 2014
16. The Fabra Observatory, Barcelona, Spain, 9 May 2014
17. The Study of Georgi Nadjakov, Sofia, Bulgaria, 23 May 2014
18. The Synchro-Cyclotron, SC – CERN, Geneva, Switzerland, 19 June 2014
19. The Kamerlingh Onnes Laboratory and Lorentz Institute, Leiden, The Netherlands, 9 February 2015.
20. The Fasor Lutheran Secondary School, Budapest, Hungary, 23 April 2015
21. The Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany, 6 May 2015



▲ The EPS Historic Site in Graz. EPS President, Prof. Mairi Sakellariadou, and Graz University Rector, Dr. Peter Riedler, inaugurated the site by unveiling the plaque on June 7, 2024.
Photo: Uni Graz/Tzivanopoulos.

22. The Students Residence (Residencia de Estudiantes), Madrid, Spain, 13 May 2015

23. The Mount Vesuvius Observatory, Hercolaneum, Naples, Italy, 23 May 2015

24. The Institute for Radium Research, Vienna, Austria, 28 May 2015

25. The Einstein House, Bern, Switzerland, as Joint APS-EPS Historic Site, 14 September 2015

26. The Hotel Metropole, Brussels, Belgium, 24 October 2015

27. The Ernst Mach Physics Institute, Prague, Czech Republic, 18 February 2016

28. The Cabinet of Physics of the University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal, 11 March 2016

29. The Former Physical Institute of the University of Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany, 7 June 2016

30. The “Piersanti Mattarella Tower of Thought” of the Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture, Erice, Italy, 21 August 2016

31. The Uddmanska House, Kungälv, Sweden, 29 October 2016

32. The Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA, as Joint APS-EPS Historic Site, 9 November 2016

33. “Les Bastions” of the University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland, 29 March 2017

34. H.H. Wills Physics Laboratory (Royal Fort) of the University of Bristol, Bristol, UK, 13 September 2017

35. IBM Research Laboratory, Rüschlikon, Zürich, Switzerland, 26 September 2017

36. The Philips NatLab, Eindhoven The Netherlands, 5 October 2017

37. The Curie Laboratory of the “Institut du Radium”, Paris, France, 7 November 2017

38. Magurele Physics Campus, Magurele, Romania, 15 November 2017

39. Institute of Spectroscopy, ISAN, Troitsk, Russia, 20 June 2018

40. Dunsink Observatory, Dublin, Ireland, 23 June 2018

41. Haldde Observatory, Alta, Norway, 26 August 2018

42. Laboratories of Kirchoff and Bunsen, Heidelberg, Germany, 1 October 2018

43. Old Physics Building of the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, 12 October 2018

44. Laboratorium Bergara, Basque Country, Spain, 20 October 2018

45. Jungfraujoch Research Station, Switzerland, 8 February 2019

46. Institute of Physics of Archirafi Street, Palermo, Italy, 18 February 2019

47. Atominstytut, TU, Vienna, Austria, 21–22 May 2019

48. Holy Spirit College, Leuven, Belgium, 23 May 2019

49. The Former Physics Institute, Frankfurt am Main, 4 September 2019

50. Mendeleev’s Museum-Archive, St. Petersburg, Russia, 12 September 2019

51. Birr Castle, Demesne, Ireland, 20 September 2019

52. Institute for High Voltage Engineering, RWTH, Aachen, Germany, 30 September 2019

53. The Academy of Sciences of the Bologna Institute, Italy, 7 November 2019

54. The Physics Department at the University of Dundee, UK, 2 December 2019

55. Les Houches School of Physics, Les Houches, France, 5 October 2020

56. Sonnenborgh Observatory, The Netherlands, 7 April 2021

57. City of Jena, Germany, 7 June 2021

58. A.J.Ångström Physics Institute, Uppsala, Sweden, 6 August 2021

59. Ampère House, Lyon (Poleymieux), France, 6 October 2021

60. Cyclotron Hall, Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium, 12 October 2021

61. Magnus-Haus, Berlin, Germany, 15 October 2021

62. Old Department of Physics, Lund, Sweden, 10 May 2022

63. Zeeman Laboratory, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 25 May 2022

64. Theodor von Grotthuss Laboratory, Gedučiai/ Žeimelis, 2 July 2022

65. The Aldo Pontremoli Institute of Complementary Physics, Milan, Italy, 16 September 2022

66. Meteorological Observatory, Zagreb, Croatia, 23 September 2022

67. Victor Franz Hess Messtation, Haflekar/ Innsbruck, Austria, 29 September 2022

68. Institut d’Études Scientifiques de Cargèse, France, 7 October 2022

69. Sodankylä Geophysical Observatory, Finland, 8 December 2022

70. Racah Institute of Physics, Jerusalem, Israel, 19 April 2023

71. Faculty of Physics, (UAIC), Iași, Romania, 22 May 2023

72. Mansion of Misa Anastasijevic, Belgrade, Serbia, 15 September 2023

73. Stachelschützenhaus, Basel, Switzerland, 22 September 2023

74. Institut de Physique Nucléaire Orsay, France, 13 October 2023

75. Institute of Physics, University of Graz, Austria, 7 June 2024

<https://www.eps.org/what-we-do/distinctions/eps-historic-sites/>

The HS Committee examines proposals three times per year. A few more sites have been approved and await inaugurations in 2025.

Members of the EPS HS Committee during 2024 were: Karl Grandin (Chair), Luisa Cifarelli, Goran Djordjevic, Ursel Fantz, Alain Fontaine and Jim Hough. Representing the EPS Young Minds Hripsime Mkrtchyan. The chair and the communication coordinator at EPS Mulhouse, Gina Gunaratnam, work together on the nominations.

For each inauguration event, an EPS HS plaque is unveiled in the presence of local representatives and authorities. The EPS President or another representative (Past President or Member of the EPS Executive Committee or Member of the EPS HS Committee) attends the ceremony. For each ceremony, some news is published right away in the electronic newsletter e-EPS and on the EPS web site, and an extended article is published afterwards in EPN.

YOUNG MINDS ACTION COMMITTEE | Chair: Carmen Martín

Young Minds (YM) is an European Physical Society (EPS) programme launched in 2010 with the aim of bringing together students and early career researchers in Physics and fostering excellence among them by encouraging the creation of local groups called Sections and ensuring the possibility to access an annual budget to carry out student-led activities falling in three main categories: outreach, networking and professional development. Young Minds has now reached 14 years of activity with 111 Sections in 38 countries. Of those 111 Sections, 77 in 33 countries are considered active, e.g. they have recently applied for funding or attended the leadership meeting.

Programme Management and Action Committee

The full Young Minds Action Committee (AC) comprises EPS President Mairi Sakellariadou, EPS General Secretary Anne Pawsey, EPS Programme leader Ophélia Fornari (Milan, Claire and Sophie have also been involved with YM during the 2024 year), Carmen Martín Valderrama (chair, Spain), Mattia Ostinato (former chair, Spain), Anna Grigoryan (Armenia), Carlos Damian Rodriguez (Spain), Lasha Dalakishvili (France), Serina Al-Massu (Germany), Pasquale Francesco Romano (Italy) and Tsovinar Karapetyan (Armenia).

Following the departure of the long-standing committee member Tanausú Hernández. Tsovinar Karapetyan joined the AC, as a result of a recruiting process started

in consideration of the significant growth of the YM network in the past years and the stronger engagement of the AC in the organization of various events. In addition, Carmen Martín is representing YM in the Condensed Matter Division, with the idea of incorporating new YM representatives in EPS Divisions, Committees and Groups.

Each member of the AC serves as a direct contact point for certain Sections within the EPS YM Network. Following the nation-based approach started in 2021, the YM network is split into six geographical zones, and each zone is assigned to an AC member. As maintenance of this approach, the Section distribution is updated to consider both the entrance of new members in the AC and the creation of new Sections, as seen in Figure 1.

The AC also worked on updating the YM Activity Grant policies to make them clearer to the YM Sections and optimizing the evaluation process. All committee was involved, with the lead of Mattia Ostinato, Damian Rodriguez and Lasha Dalakishvili.

During 2024 the AC met in person twice, the 16th of February in Barcelona and the 24th of March in Berlin, prior to the LM. Additionally, we have online monthly meetings on the last Friday of each month, plus special online meetings for the grant evaluation.

Section Development and Grants

In 2024 the programme established 5 new Sections: Young Minds of Via Panisperna (Italy), Surrey Young Minds Section (UK),

Delegación Valenciana del Grupo de Estudiantes de la RSEF (Spain), Kragujevac Young Minds Section (Serbia) and Young Minds Universidad de Sevilla Local Section (Spain). Each of these Sections is entitled to apply for an Activity Grant twice a year, which can provide a maximum annual funding of 1000 € per Section. This type of grant supports activities falling in at least one of the three categories: outreach, networking and professional development. We have additionally included the category “Section management”, for expenses related to the maintenance of the Section, Section meetings, software licences, reusable materials or any other purchase which is not connected to a specific activity but is planned to be used in multiple activities. There are two deadlines per year – January 15th and July 15th. Table 1 summarizes the figures involving the 2024 Activity Grants, including the total number of applications, the number of those approved, the total amount of requested funding, and the amount granted for each deadline.

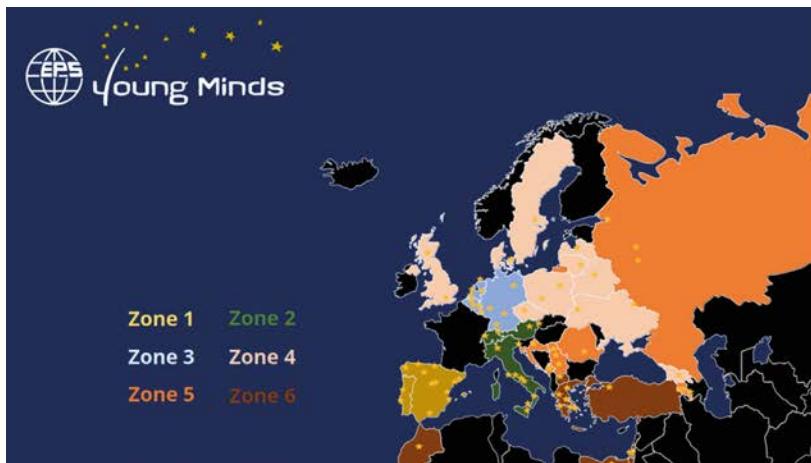
Starting in January 2019, the AC introduced the Young Minds Conference Award (YMCA), designed to support conferences or sessions organized by YM Sections. YMCA have been introduced to raise the visibility of the EPS YM programme during large events involving the scientific community. The applicants are requested to guarantee a timeslot to present the YM project during the event. Table 2 summarizes the figures involving the 2042 YMCA,

2024 ACTIVITY GRANTS	REQUESTS	APPROVED WITH FULL AMOUNT	APPROVED WITH REDUCED AMOUNT	TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED (€)	TOTAL AMOUNT GRANTED (€)
January 15 th deadline	38	24 (63%)	12 (30 %)	14.896,96	10.188,87
July 15 th deadline	46	24 (52 %)	13 (28 %)	13.945,31	11.475,53
Total	84	48	25	28.842,27	21.664,40

▲ Table 1. Summary of the 2024 Activity Grants.

▼ Table 2. Summary of the 2024 Young Minds Conference Awards (YMCA).

2024 YMCA	REQUEST	APPROVED WITH FULL AMOUNT	APPROVED WITH REDUCED AMOUNT	TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED (€)	TOTAL AMOUNT GRANTED (€)
January 15 th deadline	4	0 (0 %)	2 (50%)	3.640	1.210
April 15 th deadline	4	3 (75%)	1 (25 %)	4.781	4.281
January 15 th deadline	3	2 (67 %)	1 (33%)	2.850	2.650
October 15 th deadline	0			0	0
Total	11	5	4	11.271	8.141



	Contact person within the Action Committee
Zone 1	Damián Rodríguez
Zone 2	Pasquale Francesco Romano
Zone 3	Serina Al-Massu
Zone 4	Lasha Valakishvili
Zone 5	Anna Grigoryan
Zone 6	Tsovinar Karapetyan

▲ Figure 1. Distribution into 6 geographical zones and corresponding AC contact person for each zone.

including the total number of applications, the number of those approved, the total amount of requested funding, and the amount granted for each deadline.

Sections are assisted during the grant submission process, and especially for the YMCA the AC provides feedback and the possibility to resubmit the grant, in a sort of peer review process that helps both parties.

Compared to 2023, the number of Activity Grants applications has grown (84 compared to 72 in 2023 and 2022 and 55 in 2021) and it has increased compared to the pre-pandemic situation. Although there is a difference in the number of grant applications received in January and July, the total amount requested and granted are similar.

The number of YMCA applications in 2024 is the same as the previous year in 2023 (11 applications), although the budget granted slightly increased from 7.310 € to 8.141 €.

Taking the Activity Grant and the YMCA applications together, the YM Programme has granted in 2024 a total amount of 29.805,40 € (from which 27.441 € were given) to Sections distributed over 13 different countries, as can be seen in Figure 2. While the traditionally strong cluster of long-standing and very active Sections in Italy, Spain and Portugal received about 50 % of the funding (14.928 €), it is gratifying to see that a significant amount of support went into the eastern regions of the YM network. Sections in the Czech Republic, Macedonia, Croatia, Latvia, Georgia, Serbia, Slovakia and Armenia received about 27 % of the allocated funds (7.890 €). These Sections, although they received a smaller budget, are very well established and active within the YM

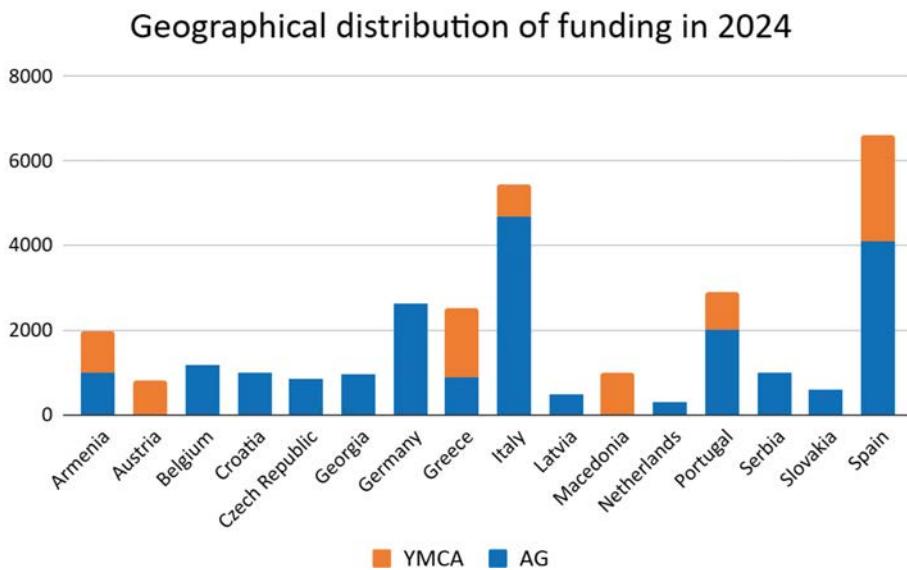
network. The remaining 23 % of the funding (6.987 €) is distributed over the remaining regions within the YM network.

The following plot summarizes how the approved funding is distributed over the different countries within the YM network.

Young Minds and European Physical Society

The organization of YM sessions during EPS sponsored and recognized conferences started in 2018 to increase the synergy between YM and other EPS Divisions and Groups. Following the work done in the past year, the AC worked towards continuing these collaborations, with many AC members involved in first person.

- The 22nd to the 26th of July were the dates that encompassed the OPTO 2024 in Prague. Lasha Dalakishvili participated representing the YM Programme in a session dedicated to “From PhD to CEO”. It was organized as a panel discussion, oriented to young researchers in learning about science and technology entrepreneurship.
- On September 4th, Carlos Damián Rodríguez-Fernández was invited to attend the CMD 31: The 31th General Conference of the Condensed Matter Division of EPS. There, he participated as a moderator of a special session dedicated to early careers ‘Bridging the gap: Young physicists in industry and research’ with Leonor Andrade, President of PhysikUP, the Physics Student Association of Porto
- University. The session was co-organized by the Lisbon YM Section and it counted with the participation of two prominent leaders in academia and industry: Elvira Fortunato, professor at the NOVA School of Science and Technology of Lisbon and former Portuguese Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education and, Pedro Oliveira - Managing Director of Leica Portugal as well as a Member of its Executive Board. During the session, the audience had the opportunity to hear about the chances that both academia and industry offer to PhD students, as well as to attend to a fruitful discussion about how to bridge the gap between academia and industry and the possible role of future PhDs in this task.
- From the 17th to the 19th of October, the “Congreso hacia el Futuro” took place in Valladolid, Spain, organized by the YM Section Physics League. Carmen Martín Valderrama was invited to collaborate in a round table about outreach, with Yann Amouroux from OPTICA, Daniel Alejandro Feijóo from Luzada, Alejandro Colón from AEQUVA and Roser Forment from Photonets. The strategies to engage different groups of the population and make science accessible to everyone were discussed, as well as the change in the language formality, with the help of visual examples and experiments. It was interesting hearing about how to explain physics concepts to disabled people, who, for example, have reduced vision capabilities.



▲ Figure 2. Geographical distribution of the total funding granted by the AC in 2024 to the YM network. Blue bars indicate Activity Grants, orange bars indicate YMCA.

In addition to these contributions held in conferences organized by the EPS Divisions and groups, YM also organized sessions during the meetings and conferences of some of the Member Societies of EPS, strengthening its ties also with National Physical Societies.

From the 9th to the 13th of September, the 110th SIF Congress took place in Bologna, Italy, where Pasquale Romano participated. Since 2015, the Italian Physical Society (SIF), in collaboration with the EPS YM network, has organized the Sezione Giovani, a special session at the SIF Congress aimed at young audiences. This session focuses on fostering scientific and professional growth through discussions on a specific field of physics each year. In 2024, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's birth and the Congress's location in Bologna, his hometown, the Sezione Giovani was titled "From Marconi to the Cloud." The main topic was exploring Marconi's historical legacy and his groundbreaking invention of the radio, highlighting its influence on modern wireless telecommunication.

The YM Sections of Oviedo, Granada and Madrid took part in the organization of the "II Encuentro Nacional de Estudiantes de Física – ENEF" (National Meeting of Physics Students), a meeting organized by the GdeE-RSEF (Grupo de Estudiantes de

la Real Sociedad Española de Física) the Students' Network of the Royal Spanish Physical Society. The three aforementioned Sections form part of both YM and GdeE-RSEF and, with financial support from YM, they organized a four-day meeting (from the 3rd to the 7th of September) in Granada (Spain) to gather students and early career from all of Spain.

In June 2022, the First EPS Forum took place at Sorbonne University in Paris, and it has seen many members of YM taking an active part in it. In 2024, the second edition of the EPS Forum took place, this time placed in Berlin. The 12th Young Minds Leadership Meeting was also co-located with the EPS Forum, allowing YM members to take part in a large-scale stimulating conference (see below).

12th Leadership Meeting

In 2021 Luc Bergé established the EPS Forum as a new conference format of EPS and invited the YM Programme to co-host its Leadership Meeting at the Forum which took place from June 2-3 of 2022 at the Sorbonne University in Paris. This year, 2024, the event was repeated in a similar format, changing the location to the Henry Ford Building of Freie University Berlin (FUB), Germany, between the 25th and the 27th of March 2024. Being integrated into a larger scientific

conference, featuring high-profile speakers from both academia and industry, including Nobel Laureates, the Leadership Meeting 2024 provided participating delegates with networking and professional development opportunities well beyond that of previous meetings.

The meeting gathered 70 Section delegates, from 30 Sections in 10 different countries, as well as guests from the "International Association of Physics Students" and other young researchers not yet related to EPS YM. Participants were mainly from Greece, Italy and Spain.

Considering its co-location with the EPS Forum, the program of the Leadership Meeting included slots for its participants to freely attend the various talks and activities taking place in the Forum, as well as a range of diverse and exciting social events and talks dedicated to YM delegates. These activities included:

- A Masterclass on scientific writing with EDP Sciences Senior publisher Isabelle Auffret-Babak and Publishing Director Anne Ruim.
- "Impostor Syndrome" talk by Dr. Antigone Marino.
- "From PhD to CEO" panel discussion with Imran Khan, co-founder and Managing Director of Keequant, and Nikolaus Hahne and Jan F. Kischkat, co-founders of Quantune.
- "Writing successful grant application" talk by Dr. Tatevik Chalyan.
- "The urgency of education and outreach" talk by Dr. Steven Goldfarb
- YM Networking session organized by AC Tanausu Hernandez, which consisted of two parts: in the first part groups distinguished bad and good grant applications and the second part was about Joint YMCA.
- The YM Poster Session, where delegates had the opportunity to present their Sections' activities, learn about those of other groups and share ideas and experiences in a friendly and welcoming environment. The Best Activity award by EPL was awarded to PONYS and SPAM Caserta. The winners received certificates from EPL and 250 euro each.

During the Leadership Meeting, the AC

gathered for its annual meeting and elected Carmen Martín as the new chair for the years 2024-2026.

In consideration of the large number of participants, many of them coming from outside the YM network, the great talks provided by the invited speakers, the co-location with the EPS Forum, and the lively and insightful discussions that took place over the two days, the 2024 Leadership Meeting can be considered a large success. A more detailed summary of the event is given in *Europhysics News* 55/3, 2024, p. 4-5.

Young Minds publications in European Physical Society Journals and Magazines

A new section in each issue of *Europhysics News* (EPN) dedicated to YM was established in 2020. Serina Al-Massu is the corresponding person in charge of this contribution.

The articles published as YM contribution in EPN in 2024 are:

- 4th EPS TIGS Hands-on Event: enlarging the horizon of young physicists and engineers (EPN 55/1).
- Thirsty for science? The Young Minds PONYS are here to “Parla Potabile”! (EPN 55/2).
- In Berlin we met again, The YM Leadership Meeting glamoring the EPS forum of 2024! (EPN 55/3).
- PONYS and SPAM: when physics crosses boundaries, “best activity award” of 2024 (EPN 55/4).
- Gender equality and Young Minds (EPN 55/5).

Furthermore, YM continued in 2024 to occasionally publish on e-EPS, the online magazine of EPS with Carmen Martin as the contact person within the AC for the e-EPS. However, we increased our visibility through social media.

Young Minds in Social Media

YM have active accounts on Instagram and LinkedIn, with 474 followers on Instagram and 763 on LinkedIn. There were 14 posts on Instagram with a range between 8 and 106 likes. On LinkedIn the number of posts is 17, with a higher engagement and interactions with the network. Lasha Dalakishvili

and Anna Grigoryan are in charge of the posts on Social Media.

Other activities

Webinars and online meetings are not as popular nowadays, as they were during and right after the COVID pandemic. However, there is the idea to make an “online Leadership meeting”, in addition to the usual one, to increase the possibility of attendance from all countries where there is a YM Section while reducing the total costs. Anna Grigoryan and Serina Al-Massu comprise the working group taking an active role in making this idea happen.

Starting in 2023, the YM Programme has been the first network of early career Physicists to be granted permanent representation in the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the European Physical Journals (EPJ). The AC has decided that the YM representative will be an AC member and will be replaced every year. The AC member representing YM in the EPJ-SAC in 2024 was Mattia Ostinato, a new AC member will be chosen for 2025.

Relaunching the European Physical Journal Techniques & Instrumentation (EPJ T&I) with an editorial board inclusive to early careers. The aim of the project is contributing to incorporate early careers in further publishing positions than authoring. The current research ecosystems rely on peer review, being the formation of editorial boards clue for sustaining excellence in science and strategy to form leader researchers. The proposal includes designated senior researchers engaging with the project as Editors in Chief (EiC) and early careers as Editors. YM AC is in charge of the selection process and supervising the evolution of the programme. Currently, the project is very advanced, it has the approval of both the EPS Executive Committee and EPJ Steering Committee and there is a nearly finished draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will define the relationships between EPS and EPJ. Damian Rodriguez, Mattia Ostinato, Anna Grigoryan, Anne Pawsey, Christian Caron (Executive Publisher of Springer), and Anne Ruimy from EDPSciences have been involved in this project.

YMs representation in the Education Working Group for updating the EPS recommendations for the physics curricula in Physics degrees. It aims at updating our previous 2010 recommendations by including topics such as artificial intelligence or strengthening the presence of soft skills. These tools are key for the professional development of recent bachelors and their incorporation in either industry or academia. The AC member Damian Rodriguez worked in collaboration with Mairi Sakellariadou, Anne Pawsey, Sascha Schmeling, Ian Bearden and others in this working group.

Outlook to 2025

The YM AC decided to assign the task of organizing the 13th Leadership Meeting to one of its Sections, as it was regularly done before the COVID-19 pandemic. A call for applications was opened in the winter of 2024. After carefully evaluating the proposals, the AC unanimously decided to assign the task of organizing the Leadership Meeting to the Santiago de Compostela YM Section. Damian Rodriguez is the connection person with the YM Section in charge of organizing the 13th YM Leadership Meeting. It will be held at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) on 5th-6th June 2025. He is also contributing to the organization of the event by actively advising the Section about how to overcome challenges, finding extra resources, optimizing logistics, etc.

Additionally, although in 2024 the intention was to recover the pre-COVID situation with two in-person AC meetings a year (Barcelona and Berlin at the Leadership Meeting), this will not remain for the following years. The increase of the Section number translates to a redistribution of the budget and does not leave space for travel expenses of the AC twice a year.

A final comment for the outlook to 2025 is the YM webpage, which is the principal point of criticism from YM Sections. Pasquale Romano and Carmen Martín are working on improving the webpage until the EPS website is redesigned and the YM website could take advantage of that.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE | Chair: Marian Reiffers

The Conference Committee from February 2024 consisted of the following members: Patricia Helfenstein (secretary) until August 2024, from September 2024 it is Milan Milicevic (secretary), Alice Valkárová, Els de Wolf, Teresa Pena and Marian Reiffers (chair).

The situation with organisation of conferences was in last year again better. However, it is still not at level before 2019. During 2024 and the beginning of 2025 we have totally 20 applications. We approved all of

them. One could see the increasing trend in numbers. This is still less than before. We expect that situation will be better. The approved conferences are published on the EPS website. We have well elaborated system of work. Applications are presented all members of committee.

Conferences, Workshops, and Summer Schools are essential elements in the personal communication of physics, the career development of physicists, the promotion

of physics towards students and young scientists, and the reputation and credibility of the EPS and physics. The role of the Conference Committee is to advise the EPS Executive Committee on the development of all activities and programs in the area of such scientific events and to administer EPS Conference grants.

I would like to thanks all member of committee who answered on communication especially Alice Valkarova and Teresa Pena

DISTINCTIONS AND AWARD COMMITTEE | Co-Chairs: Anna Di Ciaccio, Luisa Cifarelli

Members: Richard Dendy, Enrique Diez Fernandez, Lukas Gallmann, and ex-officio Anne Pawsey and Mairi Sakellariadou

The Awards and Distinctions Committee of the European Physical Society (EPS) is co-chaired by Anna Di Ciaccio and Luisa Cifarelli, with additional members Richard Dendy, Enrique Diez Fernandez, Lukas Gallmann, and ex-officio Anne Pawsey and Mairi Sakellariadou. Together, they oversee many important responsibilities, ensuring fairness, excellence, and inclusivity in selecting winners for the EPS prizes.

Their mandate goes beyond merely overseeing the awards process; the committee is responsible for upholding high standards, equity, and transparency in the selection procedures. Additionally, it advises the Executive Committee on policy matters related to awards and suggests new prizes to recognize achievements in diverse areas of physics.

To promote consistency across divisions and groups, the committee also proposes guidelines to make the award selection process as uniform and transparent as possible. However, the committee has identified challenges, such as the underrepresentation of certain groups, low nomination rates, and gender imbalance in the awards process.

In response, the committee has proposed several proposals to address these

issues. One key suggestion is to enhance the online visibility of the awards. This could be achieved by improving the EPS website, making the application process more accessible, and providing clearer rules and deadlines. The committee also recommends a more proactive approach to encourage gender balance in nominations, including explicitly inviting nominations from historically underrepresented female candidates.

Additionally, the committee proposes a broader outreach effort, such as encouraging EPS division chairs to solicit nominations from their members and involving national societies more actively in the process. These efforts aim to increase the diversity of nominees. The committee also believes it would be valuable to collect historical statistics on prize nominations to monitor progress on diversity and inclusion in the awards.

A major item on the committee's agenda for 2024 is the resumption of the Alessandro Volta Prize, which was previously discontinued due to the loss of its sponsorship. The committee proposes that the prize be reinstated with a new sponsorship. With 2027 marking the bicentenary of Alessandro Volta's death, the resumption of this prestigious prize offers a prime opportunity to hold a major award ceremony, highlighting Volta's legacy and celebrating advancements in physics. Luisa Cifarelli, one of the committee co-chairs,

will lead efforts to secure the necessary funding for the prize's revival.

In terms of the overall awards system, the committee is working to revitalize the process, with a focus on improving equity and visibility. This includes the creation of the EPS General Prize and Awards Regulations, which the Executive Committee has officially endorsed. These regulations provide a clear framework for managing the prizes, emphasizing fairness, transparency, and inclusivity in the selection process.

The EPS Awards are central to the Society's mission of recognizing excellence in research, education, and public engagement in physics. These prizes are open to scientists worldwide, reflecting the global nature of the scientific community.

Key points from the new regulations include:

- **Approval Process:** All prizes must be approved by the Executive Committee, and any new or discontinued awards require a formal endorsement.
- **High Standards & Diversity:** Selection committees must maintain the integrity and prestige of the awards while emphasizing diversity. Special attention is given to nominations from underrepresented groups, focusing on gender balance.
- **Announcement & Promotion:** Prizes should be announced normally four months before the deadline, with announcements made via the EPS website,

email, and social media. Division chairs and committee members are responsible for promoting the prizes.

- **Selection Criteria:** Selection committees should prioritize gender inclusion and ensure geographical balance among nominees. A prize must have at least four nominees, with diverse gender and geographical representation.

These regulations aim to ensure that the process remains open, fair, and inclusive, giving deserving individuals the recognition they deserve while promoting diversity and equality in the scientific community.

Changes to the EPS Awards and Distinctions

As part of its ongoing efforts to improve the recognition of excellence in physics, the Awards and Distinctions Committee has proposed several changes, under the suggestion of the EPS President, before opening the 2024 call for central EPS prizes. These modifications are aimed at refining the selection process and enhancing inclusivity.

A significant discussion centered around the EPS Volta Prize, which was established in 2012 but discontinued due to a lack of financial support. The prestigious award, which included a €10,000 cash prize, diploma, and medal, was long a symbol of outstanding achievements in physics. Fortunately, new sponsorship opportunities have emerged, with Acinque Energia S.r.l. (Italy) offering €25,000 in potential interest.

The committee also discussed the EPS Emmy Noether Distinction for Women in Physics, which honors female physicists in two categories: early-to-mid-career and more advanced levels. While the award includes a diploma, medal, and published interview, it does not offer monetary compensation. To enhance its impact, the committee has suggested introducing a one-time cash prize for 2024, funded by EPS, with plans to secure sponsorship for future editions.

Regarding the EPS Early Career Prizes, the committee reviewed the existing format. Traditionally, these awards recognize two young physicists—one for

theoretical contributions and another for experimental achievements—with a €500 cash prize. The committee has proposed merging the two prizes into a single annual award, increasing the prize money to €1,000, and renaming the distinction to better reflect its significance. Additionally, the eligibility criteria have been adjusted, reducing the qualification period from 12 years post-degree to 6 years post-PhD, ensuring the award targets truly early-career researchers.

The committee also reviewed the EPS Gero Thomas Commemorative Medal and the Achievement Award, which recognize service to EPS and contributions within EPS divisions, respectively. After evaluation, the committee recommended discontinuing the Achievement Award, as it overlaps with the Gero Thomas Medal. Going forward, the Gero Thomas Medal will remain the sole award for recognizing exceptional service to EPS. No modifications were proposed for EPS Fellows and Honorary Members.

In conclusion, the committee has put forward a set of recommendations, which the Executive Committee has endorsed. These include the official launch of the 2024 call for prizes with key modifications, such as a cash award for the Emmy Noether Distinction, the restructuring and renaming of the Early Career Prize, and the elimination of the Achievement Award in favor of the Gero Thomas Medal. These changes aim to streamline EPS awards, enhance fairness, and secure long-term sponsorship, ensuring that outstanding contributions to physics are recognized appropriately.

Relaunching the Alessandro Volta Prize with a New Sponsor

The EPS is set to revive the prestigious Alessandro Volta Prize, a biennial award recognizing outstanding achievements in physics. Originally established in 2012 through a collaboration between EPS, the Centro di Cultura Scientifica “Alessandro Volta” in Como, Italy, and the energy company Edison in Milan, the prize was awarded every two years to individuals or small groups, with a €10,000 cash prize, diploma, and medal. However, after 2020,

the prize was discontinued due to a lack of sponsorship.

Recognizing the prize's significance, the Awards and Distinctions Committee, along with the Executive Committee, initiated efforts to secure new funding. Thanks to Luisa Cifarelli (former EPS President) and Giulio Casati (professor at the University of Insubria, Como), they secured a new sponsor: Acinque S.p.A., an energy provider headquartered in Como, Italy. Acinque has committed to sponsoring the prize for the next three editions: 2025, 2027, and 2029.

Under the new sponsorship, Acinque will contribute €10,000 for each edition of the prize and provide up to €15,000 to support an EPS-organized symposium in Como, focusing on topics relevant to the award. EPS will oversee the nomination and selection process, while Acinque will support the prize's promotion and ceremony arrangements.

The selection process will remain rigorous, with nominations opening six months before the award presentation. The Selection Committee, chaired by the EPS President, will include an EPS Honorary Member, a representative from an EPS Associate Member institution, a chairperson from an EPS Division or Group, and a scientist designated by Acinque. The committee will assess nominations and recommend winners to the EPS Executive Committee, with final endorsement from Acinque's Governance Board.

The award announcement will take place at the EPS Annual Council Meeting, with the formal ceremony in Como. Travel and accommodation for laureates will be covered by EPS and Acinque, ensuring a well-organized and accessible event. Acinque may subcontract the ceremony's organization to third parties if needed.

With this new sponsorship agreement, the Alessandro Volta Prize will again be a prestigious recognition of excellence in physics. If finalized promptly, the call for nominations will be launched in the coming months, with the first award under the renewed sponsorship to be announced in 2026.

COMMITTEE ON EUROPE INTEGRATION | Chair: Gertrud Zwicknagl, Germany

Members: Ekaterina Batchvarova, Radu Constantinescu, Goran Djordjevic, Danica Krtovska, Denes Lajos Nagy, Leszek Sirk, Sofoklis Sotiriou.

The strategy of the EPS-CEI

In 2024 the Committee of European Integration kept its general strategy of promoting Physics across Central, Eastern and Southern parts of Europe through activities on the following five directions:

1. Integrating the access to research infrastructures in Europe.
2. Student training through a School Program supported by EPS.
3. Physics education and teacher training.
4. Strengthening the regional cooperation among EPS member societies and other regional organizations.
5. Promotion of physics in the regions.

Main activities in 2024

For 2024 the EPS-EIC planned the following actions:

1. Participation of EPS-EIC members in EPS Forum and EPS Council in Berlin.
2. Organization of a meeting with representatives of DPG in Berlin.
3. Organization of physics school within the frame of the SEENET-MTP training program.
4. Support of the Balkan Physics Olympiad.
5. Special mobility program for scientists from Albania, North Macedonia, Ukraine.
6. Promotion of the cooperation in Europe.

The total budget for these activities was 14.000,00 €.

The actions taken by EPS-EIC were

1. Meeting (hybrid) with representatives of EPS-EIC, EPS president, EPS vice president and Secretary General with representatives of DPG in Magnus-Haus, Berlin March 22, 2024. Participation of Radu Constantinescu, Goran Djordjevic, and Gertrud Zwicknagl in the EPS Forum and EPS Council meeting March 24-27, 2024.

2. Organization of the 6th edition of the Balkan Physics Olympiad

The Balkan Physical Olympiad became an important competition organized in South-Eastern Europe for promoting excellence in Physics at the level of high schools. Its 6th edition-BPO6, took place in Nikšić, Montenegro, June 20-24, 2024, under the organization of the Society of Mathematicians and Physicists of Montenegro and the auspices of the Balkan Physics Union (BPU). A number of students from 12 countries were involved. The participating countries were: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey.

Nine of these countries are members of the Balkan Physical Union while the other three, Austria, Bosnia and

Herzegovina and Kazakhstan, had the

status of guest countries.

The EPS is a partner of this competition starting from its first edition, in 2019.

The EPS financial support of the BPO 6 was used to partially cover the expenses related to the travel for part of the competitors, to social events and to the prizes awarded: 5 gold medals, 7 silver medals, 14 bronze medals, and 10 honorable mentions. Special awards were offered to each pupil who has obtained full marks on at least one problem. Details on the competition and on the EPS support can be found at <https://balkanphysicalunion.info/?p=4997>.

3. Several activities were organized within the frame of the CERN-SEENET-MTP program. This includes

- Preparatory program (hybrid), June 7-8, 2024 Nis/Serbia
- School on Field Theory and applications in HEP, June 9-16, 2024, Thessaloniki/Greece
- Minischool on Mathematical Methods in Gravitation and Cosmology, November 13-17, 2024, Bucharest – Magurele

For further details see the attached reports.

For the financial details see the balance sheet.

Action Plan for 2025

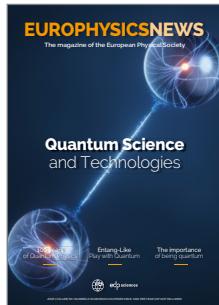
For 2025 the EPS-EIC takes into consideration the following Action Plan and financing amounts:

1. Organization of the next meeting of the EPS-EIC in Romania (jointly with BPU12), and participation of the EIC members in other activities initiated by the Committee Planned amount: 2,000 Euro.
2. Support of IPSEC organized jointly with 49th Assembly of the Polish Physical Society Katowice, Poland, September 05-11, 2025: Travel support for members of EPS member societies Planned amount 2,000 Euro.
3. A new edition of the South-Eastern European PhD School, organized in partnership by EPS, CERN Geneva and ICTP Trieste Planned amount: 2,500 Euro.
4. Organization and participation in the seventh edition of the Balkan Physics Olympiad, Ohrid, North Macedonia Planned amount: 2,500 Euro.
5. Organization of the BPU-WE-Heraeus School on “Frontiers in Quantum Science and Technologies” as satellite meeting of BPU12, in partnership with WE Heraeus Foundation in Bucharest, Romania, July 04-08, 2025 Planned amount: 2,000 Euro.
6. Organization of and participation in conferences aiming to promote the scientific cooperation in Central and South-Eastern Europe as well as in Summer Schools or conferences jointly organized with EPS. Special attention will be given to applicants from Albania, Moldova, Ukraine. Planned amount: 2,000 Euro. Total amount 13,000 Euro.

Carry forward from 2024 -1,000 Euro
TOTAL EPS-EIC REQUESTED BUDGET FOR 2025: 12,000 Euro.

JOURNALS REPORTS 2024

EUROPHYSICS NEWS (EPN)



Chief Editor: Antigone Marino
Science Editor: Ferenc Iglói

EuroPhysics News (EPN) is the official magazine of the European Physical Society (EPS). It is published quarterly, with a special issue released at the end of each year. The magazine is produced in collaboration with the scientific publisher EDP Sciences. Printed copies are distributed to all Individual Members of EPS and many institutional subscribers. Additionally, most European national societies receive EPN for further distribution. Digital versions are archived by EDP Sciences on europhysics-news.org, while EPS maintains a digital repository of the magazine at epn.eps.org.

Approximately 15% of EPN's pages are dedicated to EPS related issues, 60% to physics, and 25% to commercial advertisements, managed by EDP Sciences.

EPS in the magazine

EPN serves as a key communication platform for EPS activities at multiple levels. Each issue begins with an EPN Editorial, written by the EPS President, highlighting important EPS policies and statements. The EPS News section features reports from the EPS Secretary General and the e-EPS editor, providing in-depth insights into ongoing developments within and around EPS. These reports often expand on shorter items first introduced in e-EPS. The EPS Young Minds reports on its activities across Europe on every issue.

Among the five issues, a double-thickness special Issue is published every year, edited by one or more invited guest editors. This issue also includes the EPS directory, listing members of various committees, divisions,

and groups, along with the names of EPS award laureates and newly inaugurated EPS Historic Sites.

A Physics Magazine for Physicists

EPN is created by physicists, for physicists. Both its authors and editors contribute voluntarily, in line with the magazine's mission as a publication of a scientific foundation. It serves as a platform for exchanging ideas within the physics community. Invited authors have the opportunity to showcase their research projects and ideas to a broad physics audience. Early-career researchers use EPN as a platform to introduce themselves and gain visibility for their work. More senior physicists often discuss topics related to science policy and diplomacy. The most experienced authors frequently write about the history of physics. All authors, especially early-career researchers, appreciate the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) provided by EDP Sciences, which enhances the visibility and credibility of their publications. In a way, EPN acts as a publishing playground for the physics community.

In 2024, 45 authors contributed to the Features section.

Mini-themes IN 2024

In 2024 the mini-themes of the regular issues were 'Attosecond physics', 'Physics and transportation', 'Active matter' and '2D materials'. Selecting these mini-themes early allows editors to reach out to authors in advance and facilitates the acquisition of targeted advertisements by EDP Sciences. Additionally, European journals such as EPL and EPJ have the opportunity to promote related articles or special issues within these themes.



Probing the Universe in the Special Issue

The 2024 Special Issue explored the diverse types of observatories used to unravel the mysteries of the Universe. The guest editors, Subir Sarkar (University of Oxford) and Els de Wolf (former EPN editor), played a crucial role in curating this edition. We are deeply grateful for their outstanding contributions.

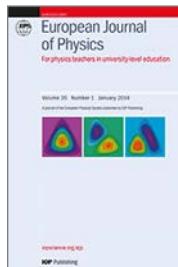
The editors team

In 2024, the EPN editorial team consisted of Ferenc Iglói (science editor), Anne Pawsey (executive editor), Xavier de Araujo (graphic designer), and Agnès Henri (director of publication). The chief editor for the first two issues was Els de Wolf, and from the third issue onwards this role was taken over by Antigone Marino. We are very grateful to Els for her many contributions to EPN over such a long period.

The External Advisory Board

The editorial team is supported by an External Advisory Board of distinguished specialists who suggest authors and review feature articles. In 2024, we bid farewell to Tero Heikkilä, who completed his term. We thank him for his dedication to EPN. At the same time, we welcomed four new members for a total of 15: Manuel Güdel (AT), Sylvain Viroulet (FR), Victor R. Velasco (SP), Arnulf Quadt (DE), Virginie Ponsinet (FR), Marek Lewitowicz (FR), Bernardo Gonçalves Almeida (PT), Carmen Martín Valderrama (ES), Rüdiger Voss (CH), Teresa Cacace (IT), Rebecca Ingle (UK), Els de Wolf (NL), Chris Rossel (CH), Jose Lado (FI), Ivo van Vulpen (Netherlands) and Vittorio Aita (UK).

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PHYSICS (EJP)



Editor in Chief:
Mojca Čepič

Publisher,
IOP Publishing:
Sophia Marcelia

Executive summary

IOP Publishing is pleased to report to the council a successful year for European Journal of Physics (*EJP*). The journal continues to deliver on its dual aims of supporting and catering to the needs of the growing field of physics education research, as well as acting as the primary source for all newly qualified physics lecturers during their training by providing valuable resources to them.

IOP Publishing is also delighted to report that there has been a steady financial contribution to the European Physical Society, of £125,062 (EUR 143,700).

Submissions to *EJP* increased by 2% in 2024; most notably from Asia and Europe, while submissions from North America, Middle East and UK have dropped. Despite a small increase in total submissions, acceptances have increased by 49% in 2024. This reflects the work that has been done throughout the year to focus on increasing the quality of submissions and their suitability for *EJP* (*i.e.*, clarifying the scope, adding questions into the submissions form, opening 'Focus on' collections and holding a strategy session with the editorial board). All geographic regions saw an increase in acceptances in 2024.

Editorial activity

The editorial board continues to offer invaluable support to the journal, by acting as guest editors for focus issues, contributing and commissioning high quality content, and promoting the journal at conferences. There have been a few changes to the editorial board in 2024, as three new board

members have been recruited; Roberto de Luca, Professor at the Universita' di Salerno; Carl Mangan, Professor at the US Naval Academy; and Eilish McLoughlin, Professor at Dublin City University. Expanding the editorial board was one of the key development areas that was discussed in the 2023 board meeting, as a way of raising awareness of the journal and encouraging quality submissions across a range of physics disciplines.

EJP continues to publish articles in the ongoing 'Focus on' collections: *Focus On Physics Competitions*, guest Edited by Angela Fösel; *Physics in Nature*, guest Edited by Joseph A Shaw and Michael Vollmer; and *Focus On Lab Works in the 21st Century*, guest edited by Gunnar Friege. The focus collections have proven to be a strong avenue for encouraging submissions to *EJP*, with submissions to the 'focus on' collections increasing by 181% in 2024!

In 2024, downloads of *EJP* articles increased by 10% (365,797 vs 333,925). This

abates concerns raised over the impact of discontinuing print copies of the journal and its impact on downloads and journal engagement. In 2024, articles received ~18% of the total downloads in 2024, while Open Access articles were responsible for 52% of the total 2024 downloads. In 2024, 30% of the traceable downloads to *EJP* articles came from Asia (notably China and India), 27% from Europe (notably Germany and Italy) and 22% from the US.

We saw a number of articles performing particularly well (see table 3&4).

As seen in the tables above, the highest performing articles continue to be Open Access articles. In 2024, 36% of articles were published OA (across IOPP, 47% of all articles were published OA), this is on par with the 2023 figure (37%). IOPP now has transformative agreements (TAs), with over 1000 institutions in 42 countries. These agreements help authors manage the cost of article publication charges (APCs) for open access publishing. These typically

Geographic region	ORIGINAL SUBMISSIONS (BY RECEIVED YEAR)					ACCEPTANCES (BY FINAL DECISION YEAR)				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Africa	47	53	42	34	39	2	3	0	1	2
Asia	362	291	253	238	258	53	45	17	25	30
Australia / NZ	26	29	18	11	9	13	14	6	2	4
Cent./s. America	60	69	39	56	58	26	25	8	9	19
Europe	237	189	200	185	198	90	71	58	53	72
Middle East	97	86	61	63	59	10	10	7	3	4
N. America	129	122	98	101	79	67	41	41	19	37
UK	27	24	25	18	14	20	8	4	5	6

▲ Table 1.

▼ Table 2.

Article type	ORIGINAL SUBMISSIONS (BY RECEIVED YEAR)					ACCEPTANCES (BY FINAL DECISION YEAR)				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Papers	928	832	702	621	533	247	203	131	104	160
Review	29	23	22	18	13	4	3	0	4	2
Special Issue/Focus	9	11	2	54	152	9	2	2	2	7
Other	36	12	14	10	16	21	9	8	7	5
Total	1,002	878	740	703	714	281	217	141	117	174

enable authors to publish on an open access basis at no cost to themselves. IOPP research shows that OA content is downloaded 80% more than paywalled content and cited 30% more, demonstrating the substantial benefits to publishing OA. In 2024, 85% of the Open Access articles in EJP were published through a TA (representing 30% of the total published articles). The most used TAs by EJP authors were our agreements in the US (18 articles published) and Italy (8 articles published), followed by the UK and Germany (5 and 4 articles published, respectively).

As mentioned in previous reports, we continue to offer our waivers and discounts policy as they provide additional support for authors from many countries with historically low levels of financial support, including lower-middle income economies, as categorised by the World Bank, and we continue to fully waive APCs for Ukrainian-based researchers.

Marketing activity and Education subject collection page

European Journal of Physics continues to be marketed through a variety of channels including email marketing, Targeted Google ads, and through the 'Education' portfolio. The journal is included in our 'Education' subject collection page, which showcases the leading international journals supporting the physics education community by assisting in improving the standard of taught physics at all levels, from schools through to universities. EJP is a leading journal on the page and content is updated throughout the year, on a quarterly basis. Users are directed by social media, email, and advertising. In 2024 the page received

1,390 views, mostly originating from Google. The subject collection can be found online at: <https://iopscience.iop.org/page/education>.

Furthermore, in 2024 we held a strategy session with the *EJP* editorial board and the main theme that emerged from the session was to increase marketing efforts for the journal, which included raising awareness of the benefits of publishing with *EJP*, assessing other avenues of promotion (*i.e.*, video abstracts), as well as increasing participation at conferences (see further information below, under 'Conferences and events in 2024').

2023 Highlights campaign (2024)

The annual Highlights collection returned in 2024 and featured outstanding papers from 2023. All articles in the collection are made free to read online until the end of the year and are promoted in email campaigns to all IOPP Education contacts to help encourage usage and citation of this quality content.

The 2023 Highlights can be found online at: <https://iopscience.iop.org/journal/0143-0807/page/highlights-of-2023>

Conferences and events in 2024

In engaging with the community and interacting with target authors, we can maintain relationships, build confidence in researchers, and work on improving the journal profile. This interaction with the community is vital and plays a major role in our marketing plans and activities. In 2024, we worked with the editorial team by providing

them with promotional material for the journal to be taken to relevant conferences; these included the AAPT (American Association of Physics Teachers) summer meeting in the US, and the GIREP conference (International Research Group on Physics Teaching) in Poland. These conferences were attended by the Editor-in-Chief, as well as by other editorial board members, who were provided with electronic banners, as well as a carefully curated collection of previously published papers in EJP to be widely promoted at the conferences. The papers within the collection presented a selection of Open Access and subscription articles, and those behind a paywall were made freely available for audiences to read for the duration of these events.

Furthermore, in continuation to the above discussion held during the strategy session around increasing marketing efforts, the EJP

TABLE 3: TOP DOWNLOADED OF ALL EJP CONTENT IN 2024

ARTICLE TITLE	VOLUME, ISSUE	ARTICLE TYPE	OA STATUS	ONLINE DATE	DOWNLOADS
Beyond velocity and acceleration: jerk, snap and higher derivatives	37.6	Article	OA	10/13/16	32,019
How understanding large language models can inform the use of ChatGPT in physics education	45.2	Article	OA	1/29/24	7,289
Physics language and language use in physics—What do we know and how AI might enhance language-related research and instruction	45.2	Review	OA	1/29/24	2,871
The classical double slit experiment—a study of the distribution of interference fringes formed on distant screens of varied shapes	41.5	Article	OA	8/13/20	2,384
On the ball on a string demonstration of angular momentum conservation	44.6	Article	OA	10/3/23	2,282

TABLE 4: TOP DOWNLOADED IN 2024 CONTENT

ARTICLE TITLE	VOLUME, ISSUE	ARTICLE TYPE	OA STATUS	ONLINE DATE	DOWNLOADS
How understanding large language models can inform the use of ChatGPT in physics education	45.2	Article	OA	1/29/24	7,289
Physics language and language use in physics—What do we know and how AI might enhance language-related research and instruction	45.2	Review	OA	1/29/24	2,871
Stability of floating objects at a two-fluid interface	45.5	Article	OA	7/17/24	1,226
The eye caustic of a ball lens	45.4	Article	OA	5/10/24	1,152
The internal ballistics of a spring gun	45.4	Article	OA	6/5/24	1,142

editorial board has decided to take an even more active role at conferences in 2025, by seeking opportunities to present EJP's 'best papers'. A further idea that was discussed in the strategy session was to hold one of IOPP's Peer Review workshops at the 2025 GIREP conference, to both raise awareness of the journal as well as diversify its pool of reviewers.

In conclusion

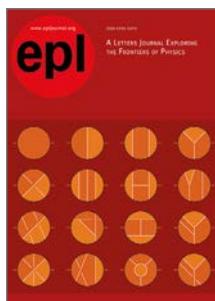
From the solid base of a high functioning publishing team, the European Journal of Physics continues to increase the impact of our quality and capitalize on steady

growth. In 2025, we will continue to assess the subject area expertise, and geographical distribution of the board in line with the submissions received by the journal in order to ensure we are maximizing the journal's efforts. Furthermore, in 2025, the Editor-in-Chief, Mojca Čepič, and Editor, Cedric Linder, will be stepping down from their respective roles as their contracts will be come to an end, and we will begin recruiting for their positions.

With the support of the editorial board and our Editor-in-Chief we hope to increase the commissioned content

we publish in 2025 and beyond. One of the main outcomes of the 2024 board meeting in relation to raising the journal's profile and driving growth was through the creation of a commissioning programme. The aim of this initiative will be to attract high quality papers from key leaders in the field, and address significant topics (*i.e.*, AI, climate, SEND, liquid crystals, prime numbers, complex systems), whilst ensuring they remain interesting and accessible to large audiences by making them relevant to daily life.

EPL



Chair of the Board of Directors:

Prof. Petra Rudolf
(EPS Groningen)

Secretary General EPS:

Dr. Anne Pawsey
(EPS Mulhouse)

Editor in Chief:

Prof. Richard A. Blythe (Edinburgh)

Executive Editor:

Dr. Anne Ruimy (EDP-Sciences Les Ulis)

Staff Editor:

Mr. Frédéric Burr (EPS Mulhouse)

Production Editor:

Mrs. Barbara Ancarani (SIF Bologna)

Publisher:

Mrs. Sophia Marcelia (IOPP Bristol)

Product Manager:

Mrs. Zoe Anderson (IOPP Bristol)

Deputy Editors (2024):

Dr. Alessandra Lanotte (Italy); Dr. Xiaojie Chen (China); Dr. Rosemary J. Harris (UK).

Data and Statistics

Journal Impact Factor JIF (Web of science). The evolution of this Impact Factor in the last years is: 2018: 1.89; 2019: 1.96; 2020: 1.95; 2021: 1.96; 2022: 1.8. 2023: 1.8. EPL's position in the "Physics, Multidisciplinary" category has declined from 2018-2022 37/81, 42/85, 47/86, 50/86, 52/85 rising slightly to 51/112 in 2023. EPL was ranked in Q2 (second quartile) in this category in 2023, having risen from Q3 for the first time

since 2019. Effort will be needed to sustain, and build on, this position, which is volatile. **Submissions:** The number of manuscripts received continues to decrease year on year (minus 28% in 5 years), see Fig. 1. The main reason identified is the decrease in the impact factor, which is leading to a vicious circle of decreasing submissions. To reverse this trend, we have strengthened the program of commissioning Perspectives and Focus Issues, article types which tend to be more highly cited on average than regular Letters. It is difficult to assess the effect of this strategy on the Impact Factor. An even more ambitious program of commissioning content will be necessary to remain competitive.

Geographical origin: The tendency, as in previous years, is to receive most submissions from Asia (57%), with China being the dominant country (31% submissions), see Fig. 2. This dependency is a factor in the decrease of submissions, as the Impact Factor and ranking of the journal are important in this region in deciding where to publish. This dependency also brings future risks related to possible policy changes in China.

Referees: Of the referees contacted in 2024 we obtained 44% of reports. This figure is largely stable since 2021, having declined slightly (from 48%) in previous years. Nevertheless, the proportion of reports received to invitations sent is good compared to other Journals. This is indicative of EPL's good reputation in the physics community. **Turnaround times:** The submission-to-acceptance time has been very stable, between

70 and 80 days on average, which is highly competitive and reflective of Co-Editors ability to secure appropriate reviewers. The acceptance-to-online-publication time which increased during and following the COVID pandemic has now returned to historical levels, just under 30 days on average from reception at SIF to online publication in 2024.

Published articles: The number of papers published is showing an erosion (435 in 2021, 382 in 2022, 359 in 2023, 289 in 2024 not including Editorials, Errata etc.). This is directly related to the decrease in submissions. The acceptance rate fluctuates over the years, between on 30 and 40% on average (33% in 2022, 36% in 2023, 36% in 2024 with 55 papers with decision pending as of end of January 2025). The 3 top sections in terms of articles published in 2024 were: Condensed Matter and Material Physics (55 papers), Statistical Physics and Networks (50), Gravitation, cosmology and astrophysics (35); the number of articles in these categories is stable since 2023 even though the number in other areas has declined.

Organization

Editor in Chief: Following the resignation of J. Gonzalo Muga in September 2023, effective from December, Deputy Editor Alessandra Lanotte agreed to step in as interim Editor in Chief until the end of April 2024. A search for a new Editor in Chief was launched, resulting in the appointment of Richard A. Blythe from May 2024.

Deputy Editors: Drs. Xiaojie Chen (China)

and Rosemary Harris (UK) continued to serve as Deputy Editors in 2024. They were rejoined by Prof Alessandra Lanotte following the appointment of the new Editor in Chief in May 2024. The role of Deputy Editors consists primarily in commissioning Perspectives and Focus Issues. Dr Chen and Prof Lanotte both demitted office at the end of 2024 to be replaced by current Co-Editors Dr Dario Benedetti (France) and Dr Pablo Cornaglia (Argentina). These new appointments rebalance coverage across key areas of physics served by EPL at the senior editorial level.

Co-Editors (CE): Three new Co-Editors were appointed in 2024, see <https://www.epleters.net/4dcgi/>. The total number of Co-Editors is now 55, including 35 men and 20 women, which is a good F/M ratio considering the low ratio of female physicists worldwide. However, it is noted that the gender balance has shifted towards men at the senior editorial board level. Effort has been made in the round of Co-Editor recruitment for 2025 to further increase the representation of women on the board, to provide a pipeline for future senior appointments. The number and expertise of Co-Editors is broadly sufficient for the number of submissions that are received, although a need for additional expertise in quantum gravity and cosmology was recognised ahead of the 2025 recruitment round, informing the approach to recruitment.

On taking up his post as Editor in Chief, Prof Blythe commissioned a survey of Editorial Board members to understand their opinions of EPL, both at the operational and strategic level. The findings were consistent with the general impression held by both EiC and staff editors, key points being that the journal is well-respected although has lost visibility in a crowded marketplace; that the support of the EPS Editorial Office is sector-leading; and that attracting high-quality submissions and peer review reports is challenging.

This survey was followed up with short online meetings in early September 2024, at two different times to facilitate participation across multiple time zones. There was a particular focus on actions that Co-Editors can take to reduce burden on external reviewers, while maintaining the quality and integrity of the peer review process. Proposals for

increasing the visibility of the journal were also discussed (see below). A full in-person editorial board meeting will take place in Mulhouse in May 2025 with a focus on building relationships between board members and the wider EPL community.

Open access

Since 2021, EPL is included in transformative open access agreements negotiated by IOPP. This allows publication in open access in EPL free of charge for a growing number of institutions and consortia (List of participating institutions at <https://publishingsupport.iopscience.iop.org/questions/institutional-open-access-agreements/>). This has contributed to an increase in the number of articles published in open access under transformative agreements, as well as the overall number of articles published in open access since 2020, which however tapered off in 2024:

In August 2024, Prof Blythe and Dr Ruimy co-authored an EPL Editorial on the topic of open access publishing, drawing attention to transformative agreements and the ease of open access publishing at EPL: <https://doi.org/10.1209/0295-5075/ad68f2>

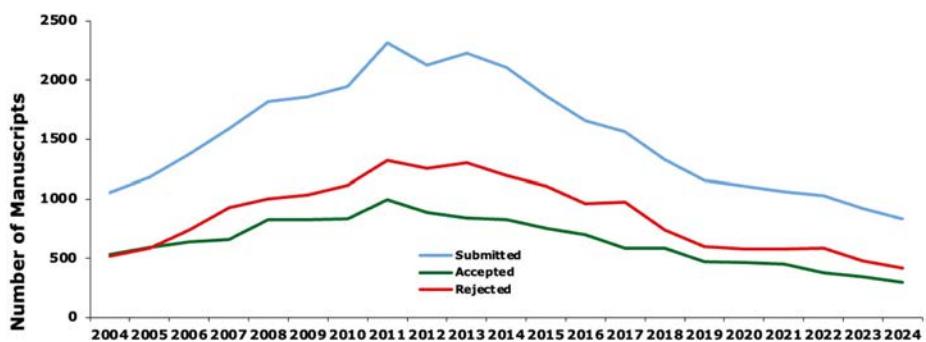
Commissioning high impact content

We are continuing to put in action the editorial strategy decided by the Board of Directors at the end of 2019. The overall editorial strategy aims to increase the impact factor and thus stop the decline in the number of high-quality articles submitted and published in the journal. It is based on increasing efforts in commissioning potentially high impact articles and collections of articles. Commissioning Perspectives is one of the main tasks of Deputy Editors, with the assistance of the Staff Editor and Executive Editor. Supporting this editorial

strategy is at the center of the yearly marketing plans.

- Perspectives.** **Perspective articles** are short reviews, with the same length as regular Letters, and written for a broader audience. The Editor in Chief has created new guidance for editors, authors and referees, stating the purpose of Perspectives to provide “a brief, accessible point-of-view on research at the frontiers of physics”. They attract 2 or 3 times more citations per article than regular articles. 30 Perspectives were published in 2024. A recent initiative is to solicit recommendations from Co-Editors for Perspectives, utilizing interpersonal networks to secure the agreement of notable authors. These Perspectives should start to appear during 2025.

- Focus Issues (FIs).** FIs are collections of articles in areas of interest identified by the Editorial Board. FIs contain mainly invited papers and are edited by a team of Guest Editors and a member of the Editorial Board. The impact of Focus Issues measured by citations depends on the topic. A Focus Issue on “Optics, Photonics and Lasers” organized in 2024 was discontinued due to lack of submissions. Two Focus Issues have been approved during 2024 for publication in 2025/2026, one on the Casimir effect and its role in modern physics arising from the Fifth International Symposium on the Casimir Effect in Slovenia in September 2024 (currently opened for submissions), and one on complex flows and complex fluids, arising from a Satellite Meeting of StatPhys29, 2025 (to be opened for submissions in October 2025). To reduce the risks of opening unsuccessful special issues, the Editor in Chief and Executive Editors are carefully reviewing proposals for viability, including requesting a list of contributors in advance.



▲ FIG. 1: Submissions, accepted and rejected

Community engagement through supporting young researchers

In June 2022, the Board of Directors decided to look at further investing in the editorial development of EPL. A working group was set up, which proposed to deliver support schemes aiming at promoting EPL's "community engagement through supporting young researchers". An analysis was made of the costs and benefits of various support schemes, including mentoring, webinars and masterclasses.

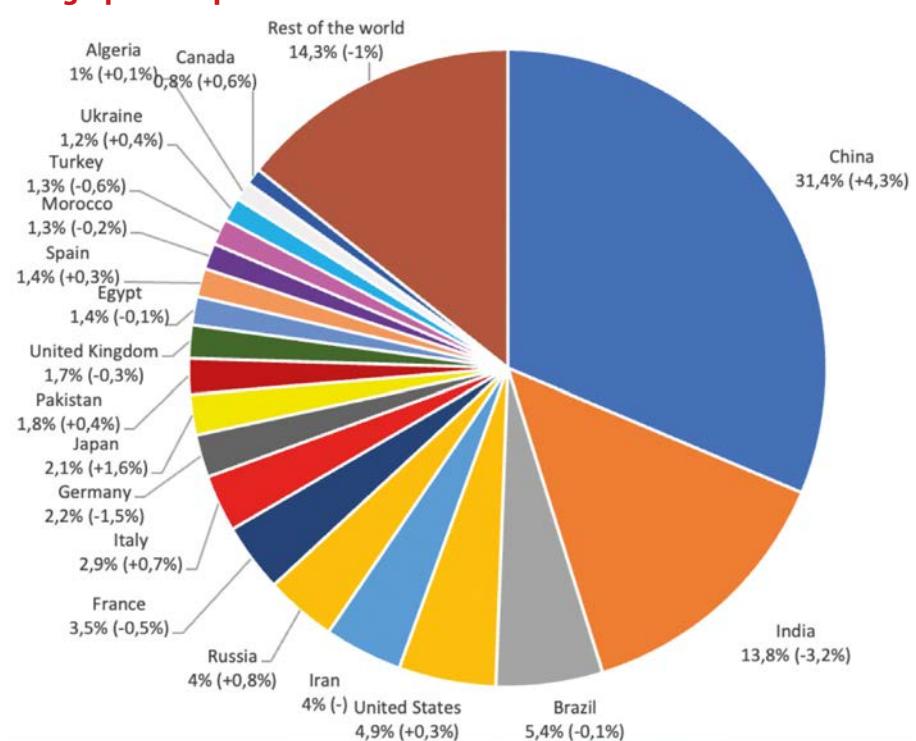
- **EPL-supported conferences.** The program of EPL-supported conferences which was put in place several years ago will continue. EPL conference support generally takes the form of "EPL poster prizes" with cash prizes, certificates and free OA publication vouchers in EPL. The presence of an EPL Editor is required to hand out the prizes and promote EPL at the event. 5 conferences and other events were supported in 2024, and €1500 was redistributed to the community in the form of prizes and other support. Plans are under development to increase EPL's visibility at major conferences.
- **Masterclasses.** Anne Ruimy and former EPL Co-Editor Christian Beck facilitated an EPL-branded masterclass at the EPS Forum in Berlin in 2024. This was a joint action with an EPJ masterclass led by the EPJ Publisher at Springer Nature. The EPS Young Minds participated in these masterclasses, and Anne Ruimy also handed the EPSYM Best Activity Awards at the Forum.
- **Editorials.** One Editorial was published in EPL in 2024: "Open access publishing at EPL" published in August, aiming to demystify the purpose and process of open access publishing, and highlighting how transformative agreements make this easy for authors.

Other developments

In 2024, we continued and expanded activities to increase the visibility of EPL and its content. They include:

- **Marketing.** To support the ongoing EPL editorial strategy, the marketing efforts provided by the IOPP marketing team focused on digital campaigns designed to raise awareness and visibility of EPL's best content. Digital campaigns included mailings to the EPL authors and

Geographical repartition of submissions



▲ FIG. 2: Distribution of submissions

reviewers, a mailing to a list purchased from Clarivate, and 3 Google Advert campaigns. The campaigns promoting EPL content tend to have good open and click rates, directing traffic to EPL's Highlights, Perspectives, and Editor's Choice papers. The marketing team also promoted the appointment of a new Editor in Chief, with an exceptional open rate of 50%.

- **Collaboration with Europhysics News.** A new development since 2022 is the contribution of "EPL Highlights" to the magazine Europhysics News. EPN publishes 5 thematic issues per year around current topics in physics. Authors of articles recently published in EPL are invited to summarize their research relevant to the EPN themes for a broad audience of physicists in one-page articles. 3 EPL Highlights were contributed in 2022, 2 in 2023 and 4 in 2024. The following "EPL Highlights" were published in EPN in 2024, in free access:

- EPN 55/2 (April 2024): Physics and Transportation. EPL Highlight: "Impact of driver's advanced reaction time in car-following model with optimal velocity deviation under V2X environment", based on Yadav et al. (2023) EPL 143 52004.
- EPN 55/3 (June 2024): Physics of Active Matter. EPL Highlight: "Focus Issue on Statistical Physics of Self-Propelled Colloids", based on Löwen et al. EPL (2023) 144 17001.
- EPN 55/4 (September 2024) 2D Materials. EPL Highlight: "A novel two-dimensional all-carbon Dirac node-line semimetal", based on Wang et al. EPL (2024) 145 56003
- EPN 55/5 (November 2024) The Universe. EPL Highlight "f(R) gravity with spacetime torsion", based on Kumar et al. EPL (2024) 147 29001
- **EPL Highlights.** At the beginning of every year, EPL also promotes its own Highlights of the content published during the previous year. The "2023 EPL Highlights" published in early 2024 were a selection of 40 articles published in EPL in 2023 that had a large impact on the international community, as measured by their high number of downloads or citations, or by their high Altmetric attention score.
- **Initiatives to enhance the visibility of EPL.** Following Prof Blythe's appointment as Editor in Chief, discussions have begun regarding routes by which EPL can reach a broader audience. The basic principle is to better publicize the highest quality articles through multiple routes, including the EPL website, social media, EPS member organizations and conferences. We aim for these initiatives to become apparent during 2025.

E-EPS



The City of Göttingen is an EPS Historic Site

The European Physical Society (EPS) has named the City of Göttingen an "EPS Historic Site" in recognition of its leading role in the development of quantum mechanics. Quantum mechanics and so the basis of quantum physics was founded in Göttingen in 1925. The new theory rapidly developed and, even to this day, continues to fundamentally shape our understanding of nature.

Prizes 2025

European Physical Society Plasma Physics Division

2025 EPS Plasma Physics Division prizes awarded

The Plasma Physics Division of the European Physical Society is happy to announce the 2025 EPS Plasma Physics Division prizes:

- 2025 EPS - PPCF Sylvie Jacquemot Early Career Prize
- 2025 EPS Plasma Physics Division PhD Research Award
- 2025 EPS Plasma Physics Division PhD Research Award

CERN experiments honoured

The Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics was awarded to the ALICE, ATLAS, CMS and LHCb experiments during a ceremony held in Los Angeles on 5th April 2025.

CERN is an EPS Associate Member.

'Quantum History Wall' project

The Quantum History Wall is part of the German Physical Society's annual quantum year programme.

With the 'Quantum History Wall', the DPG presents an innovative website that offers insights into the multi-layered history of quantum physics.

Breaking News: 2025 EPS HEPP prizes announced

The High Energy and Particle Physics Division of the EPS is proud to announce the 2025 EPS HEPP prizes. Awards will be presented at the EPS Conference on High Energy Physics taking place from 7th to 11th July 2025 in Marseille, France. [Visit the division's website for the details about the winners.](#)

Take part in the IYPT 2025!

This year, the Physics World Championship of the European Young Physicists' Tournament will take place in Lund from 29th June to 6th July.

ESPM-18 in 2027

The European Solar Physics Division calls for proposals to host the next European Solar Physics meeting in 2027 (ESPM-18).

The Letter of Intent submission deadline is 15th May 2025.

The proposal submission deadline is 1st July 2025.

Europe's Fusion Energy Research in full swing

Multiple leading facilities across Europe—including WEST, TCV, ASDEX Upgrade, MAST, and the European Magnetic Fusion 7-X—are currently running high-intensity experiments, each contributing unique scientific insights to advance global fusion energy development.

Frontier Technologies for Quantum Science

This hands-on event on "Frontier Technologies for Quantum Science", organised by the EPS Technology Innovation Group, is a partnership between:

- the EPS
- the Balkan Physics Union,
- the Extreme Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics,
- the National Institute for Nuclear Physics,
- the French Kwan-Tek company on quantum metrology solutions based on NV diamond technology.

Events and dates

Statphys in Lviv - a Statphys 29 satellite conference

This event will be organized and encouraged by the EPS Statistical and Nonlinear Physics Division. It will be held from 30th June-3rd July 2025 in Lviv, Ukraine.

12th EPL Congress

The 12th EPL Congress will be held in Bucharest, Romania, from 8th-12th July 2025.

EPS-SIF International School on Energy

The school will take place from 23th-28th June 2025 in Varenna, Italy.

spinQuest

The conference on spin-based quantum science and technology at surfaces and interfaces will be held from 17th-21st August 2025 at Monte Verita, Switzerland.

EPS Activities in 2025

Click here for the list of the activities of the EPS Executive Committee and the EPS Staff.

International Day of Light

16 May

Technical Editor : G. Gunaratnam

The Society's newsletter e-EPS is published on a monthly basis with a summer break in July or August. The newsletter consists of content about the activities of the EPS plus news from EPS Divisions and Groups, EPS Associate Members, EPS Member Societies and partner institutions. It is curated and managed by Gina Gunaratnam, Communication Coordinator, proofread by Daniel Price (President of the Finish Physical Society) and Jo Lister (former chair of the EPS Equal Opportunities Committee). The newsletter has the following editorial board: Rüdiger Voss, Petra Rudolf, Christophe Rossel, Ferenc Igloí, Alessandra Fantoni, Daniel Price and Luisa Cifarelli.

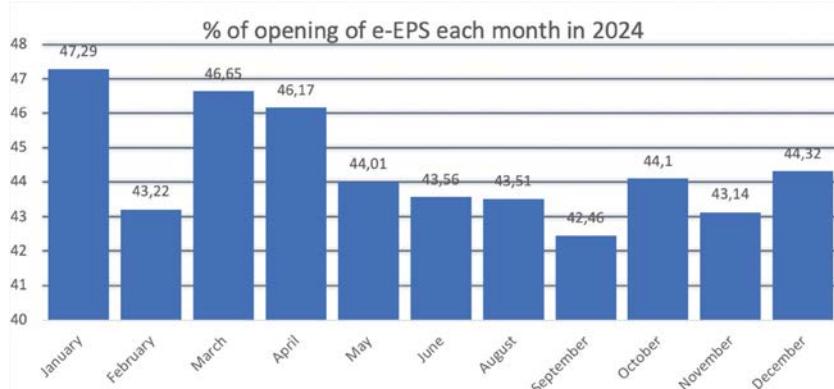
The newsletter is distributed to approximately 2,500 subscribers.

The average open rate of the newsletter is 44,4% and 8% of the links are clicked through.

In 2024, the most read articles were related to EPS prizes (winners, interviews, calls). Members are encouraged to share information about their activities.

In 2025, the Society's website being rebuild, the newsletter, as part of it for the publication of news, will have a new format.

MONTH	MOST READ ARTICLE
January	EPS-QEOD Prize for Research into the Science of Light
February	EPS Forum 2024 and Breaking New Ground: JET Tokamak's Latest Fusion Energy Record Shows Mastery of Fusion processes
March	Physics for Society in the Horizon 2050 – a new open access ebook from the European Physical Society
April	EPN 55/2
May	An interview with Monika Ritsch-Marte and Ilaria Zardo : What is something I cannot live without?
June	EPS Energy Group meeting: Gazing on nuclear fusion future
August	Landau-Spitzer Award
September	Nominations for Executive Committee Candidates are Open
October	The EPS congratulates the winners of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics
November	Nominations are open for EPS Central Prizes
December	The 2023 EPS Emmy Noether Distinction is announced!



CONFERENCES ORGANISED IN 2024

CONFERENCE	DATE/PLACE	TYPE	DIVISION
EGAS 55 (Conference of the European Group on Atomic Systems)	Granada (Spain) in 16-20 June 2024	Europhysics	Atomic Molecular Optics Division
CCP2024	Thessaloniki, 7-12 July 2024	Europhysics	Computational Physics Group
CMD31	Brage (Portugal) 2-6 September 2024	Europhysics	Condensed Matter Division
Liquid Matter Conference	Mainz (Germany) from 22-27 September 2024	Europhysics	Condensed Matter Division
ESPD-17	9-13 September 2024, Turin - Italy	Europhysics	European Solar Physics Division
5 th EPS Conference on Gravitation	9-11 Dec 2024, Prague	Europhysics	Gravitational Physics Division
XI Nuclear Physics in Astrophysics (NPA-XI)	Dresden (Germany), 15-20/09/2024	Europhysics	Nuclear Physics Division
2 nd Applied Nuclear Physics Conference (ANPC)	Thessaloniki (Greece), 23-27/09/2024		Nuclear Physics Division
50 th EPS Conference on Plasma Physics	July 8 - 12, 2024, Salamanca, Spain	Europhysics	Plasma Physics Division
Visions for Fusion (round table)	July 10, 2024, Salamanca, Spain		Plasma Physics Division
Women in Plasma Physics lunch	July 9, 2024, Salamanca, Spain	Europhysics	Plasma Physics Division
Nanometa	January 3-6, 2024, Seefeld, Austria	Europhysics	Quantum Electronics & Optics Division
10 th EPS -QEOD Europhoton Conference on solid-state, fibre, and waveguide coherent light sources	August 25-30, 2024, Vilnius, Lithuania	Europhysics	Quantum Electronics & Optics Division
EPS - SNPD Award Meeting	Wroclaw, Poland, February 14-15, 2024		Statistical and Nonlinear Division
EPS TIG Young Mind Workshop	Herceg Novi Montenegro, on 18-19 June 2024		Technology and Innovation Group
BSBF2024 conference	Trieste on 1 October 2024		Technology and Innovation Group

PRIZES AWARDED IN 2024

PRIZE	LAUREATE	DIVISION
EPS Europhysics Prize	Andrea Cavalleri	Condensed Matter Division
Liquid Matter Prize	Julia Yeomans	Condensed Matter Division
ESPD Patricia Edwin PhD Thesis Prize:	Dr. Robert Jarolim	
ESPD Giancarlo Noci Prize: Early Career Researcher (Postdoc)	Dr. Stephan Heinemann	European Solar Physics Division
ESPD Zdenek Švestka Senior Prize	Prof. Dr. Sami K. Solanki	
EPS poster prize for the 5 th EPS Conference on Gravitation in Prague	Michał Stratejny	Gravitational Physics Division
Applied Nuclear Physics prize	Alberto Del Guerra (University of Pisa and INFN - Italy) and Laura Harkness-Brennan (University of Liverpool - UK)	Nuclear Physics Division
PhD best thesis	Chloé Fougères, Sandro Fabian Kraemer and Francesco Marino	
EPS Hannes Alfvén Prize 2024	Tünde Fülöp (Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden) and Per Helander (Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics, Greifswald, Germany)	
EPS Plasma Physics Division Innovation Prize 2024	Anthony Murphy (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Australia)	
EPS Plasma Physics Division – PPCF Sylvie Jacquemot Early Career Prize 2024	Varchas Gopalaswamy (University of Rochester, USA)	
Landau-Spitzer Award 2024 (joined with APS)	Anna Grassi (Sorbonne University, France), Frederico Fiúza (Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal), George F. Swadling (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, USA) and Hye-Sook Park (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, USA)	Plasma Physics Division
EPS Plasma Physics Division PhD Research Awards 2024	Lucas Rovige (Institut Polytechnique de Paris, France). Baptiste Frei (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland). Toby Adkins (University of Oxford, UK). Mathias Hoppe (Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden)	
EPS-QEOD Prize for Research into the Science of Light	John Dudley, University of Franche-Comté and CNRS Institute FEMTO-ST, Besançon, France and Goëry Genty, Tampere University, Finland	
EPS-QEOD Prize for Research in Laser Science and Applications	Jens Limpert, Friedrich Schiller University and Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Optics and Precision Engineering, Jena, Germany and Jan Rothhardt, Helmholtz Institute Jena, Germany	Quantum Optics Division

Atomic Molecular and Optical Physics Division



Chair: Alicia Palacios

Sections

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

Conferences

- EGAS 54

Website

- <https://eps.org/who-we-are/members/divisions-and-groups/atomic-molecular-and-optical-physics-division/>

Condensed Matter Division



Chair: José María De Teresa

Sections

- Liquids
- Macromolecular Physics
- Magnetism
- Structural and Dynamical Properties of Solids
- Semiconductors and Insulators
- Surfaces and Interfaces

Conferences

- CMD31
- Liquid Matter Conference

Prize

- EPS Europhysics Prize
- Liquid Matter Prize

Website

- <https://eps.org/who-we-are/members/divisions-and-groups/condensed-matter-division-2/>

Environmental Physics Division



Chair: Johannes Orphal

Conferences

- No conference organised in 2024

Website

- www.eps.org/group/EPD

Gravitational Physics Division



Chair: Renate Loll

Conference

- 5th EPS Conference on Gravitation

Prize

- EPS poster prize

Website

- <https://eps.org/who-we-are/members/divisions-and-groups/gravitational-physics-division/>

High Energy And Particle Physics Division



Chair:
Fabio Maltoni

Conference

- Hybrid Meetings

Website

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

Nuclear Physics Division



Chair: Alessandra Fantoni

Conferences

- Nuclear Physics in Astrophysics
- 2nd Applied Nuclear Physics Conference

Prizes

- Applied Nuclear Physics prize
- PhD best thesis awards

Website

- <https://members.eps.org/group/NPD>

Plasma Physics Division



Chair:
Kristel Cromb 

Sections

- Beam Plasma and Inertial Fusion Section
- Dusty and Low Temperature

Conferences

- 50th EPS Conference on Plasma Physics
- Visions for Fusion (round table)

Prizes

- EPS Alfv n Prize 2024
- EPS Plasma Physics Division Innovation Prize 2024
- EPS Plasma Physics Division – PPCF Sylvie Jacquemot Early Career Prize 2024
- Landau-Spitzer Award 2024 (joined with APS)
- EPS Plasma Physics Division PhD Research Awards 2024

Website

- <http://plasma.ciemat.es/eps/>

Physics Education Division



Chair: Sascha Schmeling

Conference

- No conference organised in 2024

Website

- <https://eps.org/who-we-are/members/divisions-and-groups/physics-education-division/>



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