

CHIPP Long-Term Financial Table: *moderating the ambitions*

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Introduction

The CHIPP Long-Term Financial Table is meant to show a realistic view of the future financial needs for existing and planned project participation. It covers CERN related activities (FORCE) and other projects for international research installations (FOLIS). The table is handed over for planning purposes for the combined fund, called FLARE, to the State Secretariat for Education and Research SER and the Swiss National Science Foundation SNF.

In last year's table, however, the total sums for the period 2012-2016 have reached between 7.5 and 12.1 MCHF per year for FORCE activities (available funds: 4.8 MCHF/year) and between 4.2 and 10.1 MCHF for FLARE projects (available funds: nil in 2013 & 2014, approx. 1-2 MCHF/year for the later years). In order to correct this large imbalance and to establish more credible numbers, the CHIPP Board has agreed in January 2012 to embark on a process aiming at moderating the ambitions of the intended participations of CHIPP research groups in large projects for the period 2014-2017 (and possibly beyond).

Survey

In spring 2012, the project groups have been contacted and asked to provide relevant numbers for each project in a specific format, which will allow the Board to get an overview of the planned needs. Two groups (MAGIC, Tier2) contacted the Chair on their initiative to be included in the survey, one group did not wish to participate because the project (PEBS) will end soon, one asked for more time to collect the requested numbers (LAGUNA), and one other group (OPERA) did provide only a very minimalistic set of numbers. Missing numbers are identified in the table by yellow boxes. Each project will have the opportunity to explain its numbers in the meeting.

A simplistic plausibility check was performed by adding up (1) the total Swiss head-count, (2) the total number of Swiss FTE's and (3) the total number of Professor FTEs (all for 2012) and comparing them with the CHIPP database (extraction of 19 November 2011) Whereas the head-count shows an anomaly (number from table is higher than number from database), the two other checks provided a positive result:

	extracted from table	CHIPP database	
		exp. physics only	all CHIPP
Swiss head-count	393	332	409
Swiss FTE's	229	332	409
Professor FTEs	21.9	33	60

In order to be able to easily extract and identify the relevant FLARE numbers and compare them with the past FORCE grants as well as between the projects, the CHIPP administration has added to the table several additional rows as follows:

- The ratio of the Swiss head count to the total head count (in percentage points) [= row I to row H];
- The ratio of the Swiss FTEs to the Swiss head count [= row K to row I];
- The ratio of Swiss R&D and investments to the Swiss FTEs [= row AF to row K];
- The ratio between operations and investment costs (= row AP*4 to row AF)
- The number of years with successful FORCE grants and the annual average of the FORCE grants received over these years [calculated from data taken from the SNF project data base <http://p3.snf.ch/>];
- The FORCE and FOLIS requests, respectively, per period (2013-2016; 2017-202) for
 - o R&D and investments [row AF*row AJ, resp. AK];
 - o Operations [4*row AP*row AT, resp. AU] except for DARWIN (1 year) and LAGUNA and XENON (2 years of operation);
 - o Manpower (technicians) [4* row AA, resp. AB * 110 k];
 - o Total sum from these three entries
 - o Annual average over the period.

As you will see, the table is rather difficult to handle on your screen (because of its size). In order to facilitate your life, three extracts have been produced (one for each period), taking up just a few key numbers or ratios plus the corresponding FORCE/FOLIS data. The result of the survey is shown in an Excel sheet (CHIPP_FORCE_FLARE_disc_2012-06-06.xls; distributed together with this cover page).

Procedure

The CHIPP Chair is aware that tables with a keyword per row inevitable bears the risk of a certain individual interpretation. In addition, the Chair is conscientious that the numbers become more and more estimates the further out we are looking. For this reason, each project has 10 minutes to explain its numbers and how certain rows have been understood. These presentations will lead to identifying fields for clarifications and possibly revisions, leading to the possibility of handing in a revised version of the projects numbers in the second half of June.

A second draft table will then be produced for the September Board meeting. In the end, the table will serve as input source for the annual FLARE tables, which will lead to a much reduced effort for their establishment.

The Board (applying Article 27, litt. b) is requested

- to discuss the table established on the basis of the individual input from the projects, and
- to assess the requested FLARE funds against the sums earmarked for this purpose at SER/SNF.