

Minutes of the EB meeting 2015-05 on 25 August 2015

Time/place of the meeting: Tuesday, 25 August 2015, 12:15, ETH-Rat, Effingerstrasse 6a, 3001 Bern

Present: Teresa Montaruli (TM), Olivier Schneider (OS, Chair), Adrian Signer (AS), Marc Türlér (MT, Secretary), Rainer Wallny (RW)

The Chair opens the meeting at 12:15.

1. Agenda

The agenda is approved. OS suggests adding the information item 18 on some recent evolution concerning the EPPCN. This is agreed.

2. Apologies

None

A. Administrative items

3. Minutes of the EB meeting 2015-04 (29 May 2015) ([→ document](#))

The minutes are approved without modifications.

4. List of Actions

OS notes that many actions in the list have been done, which is good.

5. Next EB meetings

- 2015-06: Wednesday, 23 September 2015, 12:15, ETH-Rat, Bern

Because of a meeting of the MAP platform in Bern on 14:15, where Olivier needs to go, the EB meeting is moved to 10:45.

- 2015-07: Friday, 2 October 2015, 12:15, ETH-Rat, Bern

This meeting is confirmed.

- 2015-08: Friday, 27 November 2015, 10:15, ETH-Rat, Bern + EB lunch

TM wishes to move the meeting by half an hour because of childcare. It is agreed to have it at 10:45 leading to a rather late EB lunch at around 13:15. The two new incoming EB members – Tatsuya Nakada and a second new member – shall be invited as well.

→ MT: to invite incoming EB members to EB 2015-08 and to the following EB lunch

B. Items for discussion

6. Debriefing of CHIPP Plenary 2015

OS points out the rather animated Board meetings at the CHIPP Plenary held on 29 June – 1st July 2015, at the Château de Bossey. He felt that people seemed concerned by the discussion on the role of CHIPP in setting priorities among projects and that this triggered a lot of discussions. The main outcomes were the agreement on the need to finalise the neutrino pillar White Paper (WP) document to be endorsed by the Board in October and the agreement to discuss the priorities within each pillar with as guideline a pillar partition of 60% for high- and low-energy particle physics, 20% each for astro-particle and neutrino physics. TM mentions that she has just received – as a co-editor – a first draft of the WP document. She reports that it now includes priorities and that GERDA is listed among the projects to apply for FLARE funding. RW asks whether there was overall agreement that CHIPP has authority. OS answers that there was no uniform agreement and also quite strong opinions, but everybody agreed about the need for discussion and of doing

something about the problem of prioritisation. He thinks that it was positive overall. AS agrees and adds that it was generally accepted that CHIPP shall do something. A rather long discussion followed about the inclusion of low-energy physics into Pillar 1. This is reported as part of the next item as it concerns the SWHEPPS 2016 workshop. OS concludes that the CHIPP Plenary was successful. Benefitting from a nice place and beautiful weather it gathered around 100 participants on Tuesday and a bit less the day before. The last session was the least attended – as usual, but still at an acceptable level.

7. SCNAT funding requests 2016

OS reminds that the draft proposals for SCNAT funding requests have been circulated prior to the meeting. They request 15 kCHF for supporting the Strategy Workshop on High-Energy Particle Physics in Switzerland (SWHEPPS 2016), 10 kCHF for the PSI Zuoz School 2016, and 5 kCHF for keeping some outreach activity on the multi-lingual “particlephysics.ch” website despite the end of the SNSF Agora funding. The main discussion was about the inclusion of low-energy physics in the programme of SWHEPPS as suggested by AS in a message on August 6th and further supported by Gilberto Colangelo. This follows from the inclusion of low-energy physics in Pillar 1, as proposed by OS at the CHIPP Plenary for the “60:20:20” share among pillars (see item 6 above). OS explains that this was done to have round numbers (60:20:20) and also because the PIs were mostly the same in mu3e and the LHC experiments. OS reminds that the original CHIPP roadmap document of 2004 did not mention theory and low-energy physics, an omission corrected in the document of 2011 on the implementation of the roadmap. As checked by RW, on page 9 of this document the Pillar 1 is indeed “including indirect searches with high precision experiments at low energy”. He notes that this had no consequences at that time as FORCE was only for high-energy physics, but now it has because FLARE funding is open to everybody. OS does not see the inclusion of low-energy in Pillar 1 as a problem for the discussion of the prioritisation started this summer. AS notes, however, that Klaus Kirch’s perception is that SWHEPPS is meant for refining the Pillar 1 strategy in view of a white paper or an update of the roadmap and thus low-energy shall not be left out. It would be fine as well if the scope of SWHEPPS was only the high-energy frontier physics, but then this shall be made clear. OS agrees that if the aim is to discuss an update of the roadmap SWHEPPS should include all of Pillar 1 rather than just LHC physics. In the current set-up with a meeting of 2.5 days, RW sees only the possibility to give a 2-hour session to low-energy physics. OS thinks that if one includes low-energy, it shall have enough time devoted to it. RW proposes to organise a small meeting with the organisers in a month or so to discuss the issue and the programme. For what concerns the request to SCNAT, it was found to be fine to leave it as it is for the time being. OS asks whether it is fine to ask for 30 kCHF in total this year. TM notes that CHIPP is not the biggest requester for SCNAT funding according to the MAP budget table usually distributed in September. The amount for the three requests is found to be adequate and is agreed. AS notes that he got a bad news from the venue of the Zuoz school. The school will likely have to be shifted one week later, which is a pity since all but one lecturer have already agreed and booked the dates. He also mentions that as a follow-up of PSI 2013, the 4th PSI workshop on the Physics of fundamental Symmetries and Interactions at low energies and the precision frontier will be held on 17–20 October 2016.

→ RW: to organise a meeting to discuss the low-energy inclusion in SWHEPPS

→ MT: to finalise the SCNAT funding requests and to submit them by 28 August

8. Long Term Financial Tables

OS reminds that the deadline for submitting updates to the CHIPP tables, as input to the prioritisation discussion within each pillar, was set to the 21st August. Several updates have been received but others are still missing. TM notes that the draft of the WP on neutrino physics has now a sum of FLARE funding for 2016–2020 of 6.3 MCHF, which is already in accordance with the target value of the pillar. The question whether the tables shall be updated accordingly was briefly discussed. OS concludes that it would be ideal if the neutrino PIs gave numbers in the tables consistent with their white paper. He will invite them to do so. In order to support the discussion within each pillar, it was decided to distribute a set of updated summary tables and/or plots on September 1st, based on inputs received by August 31st at noon.

→ MT: to announce the distribution of summary tables/plots on September 1st

→ MT: to collect final updates of the tables received by August 31st at noon

→ OS: to prepare a set of summary tables/plots to be distributed on September 1st

9. Project prioritisation within pillars

OS reminds that Board members of each pillar were asked to agree on a convener by August 21st to lead the

prioritisation discussion. Ueli Straumann was proposed and agreed for Pillar 1, Maurice Bourquin is the preferred candidate for Pillar 2 and Tatsuya Nakada is the proposed candidate for Pillar 3. Ueli Straumann already started his action in Pillar 1. TM agrees to confirm the choice of Maurice Bourquin for the astro-particle pillar and OS will confirm Tatsuya Nakada as the convener of the neutrino pillar.

→ TM: to confirm Maurice Bourquin as the convener of the astro-particle pillar

→ OS: to confirm Tatsuya Nakada as the convener of the neutrino pillar

10. CHIPP Prize 2016

AS presents the slight modifications he proposes for the CHIPP Prize procedures, according to the document sent prior to the meeting. The changes are discussed one-by-one for each item of the procedures. For item 2, AS proposes to add “at the time of the deadline for applications” for the non-completion of the PhD thesis. OS notes that at EPFL, there is a closed exam followed by the public defence, which must happen between 1 and 6 months after the exam, making things a bit more complicated. It is agreed to change “did not yet complete their PhD thesis” by “did not yet pass their final PhD thesis defence”. The suppression of “(usually by March 31)” in item 3 is agreed, as well as the addition that the selection committee is chosen by the EB in item 4. For item 5, AS notes the difficulty to get additional support letter from two other persons from different institutes in time for the deadline. The proposed re-formulation of “up to two” was found to be too weak, as it could also mean none and it was therefore agreed to put “one or two”. For item 6, the specification of the number of short listed candidates (“up to three”) was agreed to be removed. AS proposes to mention explicitly whether a joint award can be distributed or not. Actually, this year, there was an issue with two candidates working on the same topic and it would have been very difficult to give the Prize to only one of them. His preference is for having only one Prize winner every year. It is agreed to add “Only one candidate can get the award”. About the role of the EB in the process, OS asks whether item 7 is still fine. AS agrees to leave it, as it implies that the Selection Committee does a proper ranking of the candidates. Instead of “Once the CHIPP EB has taken note of the result”, TM suggests to put “Once the CHIPP EB has endorsed the result”. This is agreed, as well as the information of the candidates to be now “about the outcome” instead of “about their personal ranking”, while item 10 was agreed to be left unchanged. Concerning the replacement of members of the Selection Committee, AS reports that Maurice Bourquin would actually be ready to stay in for one more year, while Peter Truöl would like to step down. His replacement can be discussed at the EB meeting of November.

→ MT: to provide the revised procedures for approval at the Board 2015-03

11. Membership fees to other organisations

OS introduces the topic by mentioning the discussion he had with Bernd Krusche at the CHIPP Plenary meeting concerning a possible Swiss contribution to the European Centre for Theoretical studies in Nuclear Physics and Related Areas (ECT*). This centre is located in Trento, Italy, and has many visitors from each country. According to the statistics received from the president of ECT* there are on average about 20 visitors yearly from Switzerland, but including around 40% coming from CERN. Checking on the website, TM notes that the centre is funded by the Bruno Kessler Foundation, several projects in the Framework Programmes of the European Commission, as well as funding agencies of EU member and associated states. The biggest contributors are Italy, Germany and France with a typical yearly contribution of 100 kEUR each followed by small shares from many other countries¹. OS explains that the request from ECT* conveyed by Krusche is whether Switzerland could also contribute of the order of 10 kCHF per year alike Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Romania, UK, etc. As in other countries this should probably be paid by the funding agency and Krusche proposes CHIPP to approach the SNSF in this sense. OS thinks that this is a bit aside of the main interests of CHIPP and is not so keen to ask SNSF to pay for ECT*. He would rather support individual workshops at ECT* organised by CHIPP members. TM checks the organisers of the workshops on-line, and finds one in January 2015 co-organised by Atac Imamoglu (ETH Zurich), who is not a CHIPP member. In 2014, F.-K. Thielemann co-organised a workshop and also in 2012 and 2013. OS proposes to contact him at the next MAP meeting to discuss the issue. Concerning other fees, TM reminds that the fee of 5 kCHF to the Astroparticle Physics European Consortium (ApPEC) was discussed between Maurice Bourquin and the secretary of ApPEC and is paid by SNSF. She wonders who is paying the NuPECC fee (there is one according to the website). OS adds that there are no fees for ECFA, since it is related to CERN.

¹ See the presentation on ECT* by Wolfram Weise at: http://www.nupecc.org/presentations/weise_mar15.pdf

→ OS: to discuss the issue of the ETC* contribution with F.-K. Thielemann

12. FLARE M&O request 2016

OS reminds the deadline of November 15th for the submission of the FLARE M&O request. According to the schedule of the previous years, the call to the PIs of the three experiments is sent out by the end of September. He notes also that RW was envisaged to take over this responsibility in 2015. The idea was that he could then continue this for a couple of years, which is now compromised by stepping down from the EB. RW adds that he will probably not prepare the CMS part of the request, which should now be done by Ben Kilminster, while Giuseppe Iacobucci and Tatsuya Nakada would continue to write the ATLAS and LHCb parts, respectively. Given the situation, OS agrees to take care of the request one more year, but wishes MT to take the lead on this as far as possible.

→ MT: to ask for and collect the inputs to the FLARE M&O request 2016

13. Organiser of the CHIPP PhD Winter School

OS reminds that we need somebody to replace Vincenzo Chiochia for the organisation of the CHIPP PhD Winter School. There was a call for organisers at the last Board meeting and this was also mentioned again in the e-mail to the Board with the minutes. AS thinks we should rethink the goals of the school, because there are so many other schools for PhD students. OS recalls that it was started to strengthen the education part of CHIPP. The schools took place in 2008, 2010 (at Monte Verità, Ascona), 2011 (organised by Andrew Hamilton and Martin Pohl in Leukerbad) and then in 2012, 2013 and 2015, organised by Chiochia in Grindelwald. OS then reads item 18 of the minutes of the Board 2015-01 on the topic, where it is written that the attendance was of 18 students and 4 lecturers. TM suggests to focus on one topic so that the same PhD students can attend several times without hearing the same things. AS suggests to ask the Board for ideas. OS would prefer having a list of questions to be voted on, rather than embark in a too broad discussion. AS agrees to come up with a list of questions (even provocative ones, like "Shall we keep this school?") to be circulated to the EB and then to the Board soliciting written responses prior to the Board meeting. The outcome would then be discussed at the meeting.

→ AS: to prepare a list of questions in preparation of the Board meeting

C. Items for information

14. RECFA country visit to Switzerland

OS reports that the date of the RECFA country visit to Switzerland has been fixed to Friday, April 1st 2016. He sent an official invitation to the State secretary Mauro Dell'Ambrogio on 23 July 2015. From the reaction of Martin Steinacher, he assumes that this is properly booked, but still expects an official answer at some point. The venue at the ETH Zurich shall not be a problem.

15. Call for EB candidates

OS reminds the on-going call for EB candidates to replace RW in 2016 with a deadline set to 15 September. He has received no official nomination until now. He encourages the EB members to be a bit pro-active on this process, but there is no concrete action to be taken before the deadline.

16. Innosuisse meeting report

TM was foreseen to give a short report on the last meeting of the Swiss agency for the promotion of innovation "Innosuisse", which now replaces and extends the mandate of the Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI). TM, who had to leave just before this item, actually already sent a message to the EB reporting on this meeting held on 30 July 2015. Based on this report, OS wonders if Innosuisse shall be promoted at the next Board meeting, although it is very much linked to industry rather than academia.

17. Outreach activities (200 years SCNAT)

OS briefly conveys the information received from Hans Peter Beck on the three outreach events linked to the "Forschung Live" programme of the 200 years of SCNAT. The projections of the movie "Particle Fever" (USA, 20013) at Open Air cinemas in Lucern on 9 August and in Aarau on 23 August were relatively successful (around 100 people in Lucern and 250 in Aarau) given the rather bad weather. Pictures of the two events are posted on the outreach platform "particlephysics.ch". OS also presents the print-outs of the newspaper articles in the "Neuen Luzerner Zeitung" featuring Hans Peter Beck and in the "Argauer Zeitung" with a

picture of Lea Caminada. OS mentions that he will take part to the inter-disciplinary podium discussion following the last projection of the movie in Sion on 25 September, together with the Jesuit theologian Jean-Blaise Fellay and the philosopher Michel Siggen. MT adds that this is announced with a leaflet on the CHIPP home page under Latest News.

18. EPPCN member

OS reports on the message of 7 August from Hans Peter Beck stating that he discussed the issue with the CERN press office. The latter does not recommend a Swiss free-lance journalist, because of the confidential and embargoed information exchanged within the EPPCN, which could be tempting to be disclosed prematurely. It proposes to find ideally a professional communicator and not an active journalist. RW reminds that the EPPCN member in other countries is from the press office of a big national institute like DESY in Germany. OS agrees, but recalls that attempts to do the same in Switzerland did not work out satisfactorily, neither with ETH Zurich, nor with PSI. OS then mentions that MT volunteered to act as the Swiss EPPCN member until a better solution is found. MT agrees that he is by no means a “professional communicator”, but this has some experience through his responsibility in writing the AstroWatch column in the CERN Courier since 2003, totalising over 100 articles by now. This regular practice gave him a good insight into how press releases are written and in adapting the provided information for scientists of a different discipline. Being in personal contact with the particle physics community in Switzerland without being involved in a given experiment is of course also an asset. What shall be developed is the contact with the media both in the German and French speaking areas. As there was no time to discuss this possibility much further, OS proposed to keep it in mind for the time being and to clarify the question of the additional funding with the SERI.

→ OS: to discuss the issue of additional funding from SERI with Martin Steinacher

19. Status of recent and future meetings

- CHIPP Plenary 2015, 29 June – 1st July 2015, Château de Bossey, VD
- SWHEPPS 2016, 8–10 June 2016, Ägerisee, ZG
- PSI Zuoz Summer School 2016, 7–13 August 2016, Zuoz, GR
- Joint SPS/CHIPP annual plenary 2016, 22–25 August 2016, Lugano, TI

The two following meetings have been suggested for addition to the list:

- RECFA country visit 2016, 1–2 April 2016, ETH Zurich
- PSI 2016 workshop on Physics, Symmetries and Interactions, 17–20 October 2016, PSI

20. A.O.B.

MT conveys the suggestion by Ben Kilminster of having a CHIPP Google calendar. RW notes that some work with this, while others prefer different tools, but thinks that it can be useful. OS agrees to prepare this, if it can be done easily.

→ MT: to prepare a Google calendar with the CHIPP meetings and related events

The Chair closes the meeting at 16:25.

3 September 2015

written by: Marc Türler

approved by: Olivier Schneider