

# Plenary Meeting of the LIP Scientific Council

Minutes of December 21<sup>th</sup>, 2020; 10h00

The LIP Scientific Council (SC) met on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, via *Zoom* videoconference, in the presence of the following eighty-one LIP members:

Agostinho Gomes, Alberto Blanco, Alexandre Lindote, Alfred Stadler, Ana Luísa Carvalho, António Pina, Bernardo Tomé, Carlota Andres, Catarina Espírito Santo, Catarina Quintans, Conceição Abreu, Cristina Mendonça, Daniel Galaviz, Diogo de Bastos, Duarte Guerreiro, Elisabete Neves, Felix Riehn, Fernando Barão, Filipe Veloso, Francisco Neves, Giovanni La Mura, Grigorios Chachamis, Guilherme Milhano, Guilherme Pereira, Helena Santos, Helmut Wolters, Henrique Carvalho, Hugo Simões, Isabel Lopes, Joana Sá, João Gentil, João Paulo Martins, João Pedro Santos, João Pina, Jorge Gomes, Jorge Maia, Jorge Sampaio, José Carlos Nogueira, José Maneira, José Rasteiro Silva, Liliana Apolinário, Lorenzo Cazón, Luís Margato, Luís Peralta, Luísa Arruda, Marcin Stolarski, Marco Pinto, Margarida Rodrigues, Mário David, Mário Pimenta, Michele Gallinaro, Miguel Romão, Natália Antunes, Nuno Barros, Nuno Castro, Nuno Leonardo, Ofélia Janeiro, Pamela Teubig, Patrícia Conde, Patrícia Gonçalves, Paula Bordalo, Paulo Crespo, Paulo Fonte, Pedro Abreu, Pedro Assis, Raul Sarmiento, Ricardo Barrués, Ricardo Gonçalo, Rita Saraiva, Ruben Conceição, Rui Alves, Rui Ferreira Marques, Rui Curado Silva, Rute Pedro, Sandra Soares, Sérgio Ramos, Sofia Andringa, Susana Coito, Teresa Peña, Valentina Lozza, Vladimir Solovov.

Since the number of attending SC members (seventy-four) was larger than one third of the total number of SC members (one hundred and fifteen), needed for a quorum, the SC board, José Maneira (President), Raul Sarmiento and Ricardo Gonçalo (Vice-Presidents) initiated the SC Plenary meeting at 10h02 with the following agenda:

1. Information from the LIP directorate
2. Information
3. Participation in the COMPASS++/AMBER Collaboration
4. Scientific strategy of the groups
5. Preparation of the LIP reports
6. Evaluation of the LIP researchers
7. Other items

The slides presented during the meeting are available in [Indico](#).

## 1. Information from the LIP directorate

- Mário Pimenta informed that, after the LIP public presentation for the Associate Laboratories call, written questions will be received and answered until the 9<sup>th</sup> of January. The selected applications will then negotiate with FCT the recommended funding. The predicted timing of such process is February, therefore an automatic renovation of the LIP associate laboratory status, at the end of January, is not expected.

- The results of the recent PT-CERN call for PhD fellowships will be announced until the end of the year, whereas those of the ProtoTera call will become public by middle January. Both programs expect to open the next call at the end of January. The number of applications to the PT-CERN PhD fellowships in technology has been unexpectedly low.
- The LIP directorate is available to discuss, with the several LIP groups, strategies and options concerning the upcoming FCT call for R&D projects.

## 2. Information

- This is the first LIP SC plenary meeting open to all LIP members.
- The new member Susana Coito introduced herself to the SC Plenary.
- Raul Sarmiento gave an overview of some recent, current and future national and european research funding calls. These include the 2021 FCT call for R&D projects, to be open from the 28<sup>th</sup> January until the 10<sup>th</sup> March, with two project typologies of different duration and funding: standard R&D projects and exploratory projects. Some remarks from the SC followed:
  - in the area of Physics, 9 projects were recommended for funding in the previous FCT call for R&D projects, clearly a small number for the whole country;
  - the success rate of this call was calculated by FCT in a way that its value is artificially increased, in relation to the real value (about 5%);
  - such calls are, for the first time, opening every year, which is positive;
  - the upcoming call has new restrictions for applying (a selected PI from the previous call cannot apply as PI, a researcher may be PI of only one application, a co-PI cannot be PI of another application, etc);
  - about 15% of the FCT budget funds a R&D projects call (Projetos exploratórios), whereas a higher scale of european funds will be distributed via the CCDR (Comissões de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional) in calls with typically higher success rates, which LIP may strategically consider;
  - the fact that big part of such financing ends in precarious working contracts is concerning;
  - LIP should keep the effort to get permanent positions, the best present options being the current Associate Laboratory call and the pursuit of university positions.
- José Maneira presented the changes, recently approved by the C4, to the structure of LIP Indico. The main change is the separation of public events categories from internal ones. It will be launched at the beginning of the year.
- Patrícia Conde presented an overview of the latest ECFA activities (in this webpage):
  - Karl Jakobs was recently elected as the new chair;
  - the next ECFA joint seminar will take place in fall 2021 or early 2022;
  - a diversity charter was distributed by the collaborations, privacy issues having arisen and addressed;
  - a Recognition Working Group is exchanging good practices among the collaborations and addressing criteria to evaluate curricula in this area;

- LIP should evaluate its positioning in the physics and detector studies leading towards a Higgs factory;
  - a detector R&D roadmap is under discussion, the national contact being Paulo Fonte;
  - the Portuguese members of the Early Career Researchers Panel, to involve young scientists in discussions of the future of HEP physics, are Liliana Apolinário, Ana Luísa Carvalho and Diogo de Bastos.
- Nuno Leonardo presented the new LIP scientific documentation referencing system. Motivated by the summer internship students reports, it was created to provide means for students to reference their work and to improve the dissemination and sharing of scientific work within LIP. It has two categories: a database to store students documents, which may be accessed in the following [webpage](#), and a compilation of links to theses, available in the following [webpage](#). The short, medium and long term plans for the system were presented. A discussion followed, in which:
    - all the people involved in this work were congratulated;
    - an appeal was made for all supervisors to send to the advanced training their explicit authorization regarding the publication of their summer interns reports;
    - the links to the theses are read from the database (and are by default not available prior to 2010) and may be completed by accessing the RENATES platform (available in the following [webpage](#)), which has the official compilation of national PhD and Master theses;
    - a suggestion was made to recover all the history of theses at LIP since its foundation, in 1986, through an effort from the groups to find and digitalize old theses (most of which should be available from the LIP library);
    - it was recommended that the effort of filling the theses' information in the database starts from the more recent PhD and Master theses and is later extended, under the responsibility of the LIP groups, which are also invited to suggest new document categories that may be needed.
- In what concerns the LIP groups, the SC was informed that the coordination of the SHIP group changed from Celso Franco to Nuno Leonardo.
  - Rui Alves, representing the Coimbra technical staff, congratulated the SC for the first open plenary and the LIP staff capability to ensure the provision of services during this pandemic era, both via presencial and remote work, referring some challenges and future concerns. The start of the staff evaluation process was congratulated, with expectations for its outcome and repercussions in terms of training, work organization and salaries. The technical staff conveyed the need of having more information and involvement in the execution of projects. It is committed to participate actively in the laboratory life, being involved in the creation of the workers commission and looking forward to the concretization of a LIP general meeting.
  - Diogo de Bastos, representing the LIP students, referred that the pandemic situation brought delays to some PhD works and difficulties related to additional expenses (renting, etc). The other important students concerns are related to mental illnesses and to dealing with supervisor-supervised conflicts. Proposals for solutions that may help tackling such problems are being pursued by the students. In spite of these issues, the overall LIP student community finds it pleasant to study at LIP. Nuno Castro commented that students must be supported

in difficult times and special situations, even though the rule must be that PHD works are finished in useful time. For this, monitoring strategies, as suggested by the Advisory Committee, should be considered and implemented. He also reminded that the LIP regulations specifically address the resolution of labor conflicts.

### 3. Participation in the COMPASS++/AMBER Collaboration

- Catarina Quintans presented a proposal (available in [Indico](#)) for the participation of LIP in the COMPASS++/AMBER Collaboration, a new fixed-target experiment, approved by the CERN research board, to investigate the Emergence of the Hadron Mass mechanism. The first measurements will start in 2022, addressing the proton charge radius and pion structure.
- After questions from the SC, Catarina Quintans explained that the group is in close collaboration with the also participating Aveiro group, led by Carlos Azevedo, with strong competences in instrumentation. The group plans to maintain responsibilities in the experiment Detector Control System and has a funding strategy that is coordinated with the final phase of COMPASS.
- A voting by the SC took place. The participation of LIP in the COMPASS++/AMBER Collaboration was approved by the majority of the SC members present, with forty-six votes for, three abstentions and no votes against.

### 4. Scientific strategy of the groups

- José Maneira briefly listed the (planned) moments in which LIP discusses the many levels of its scientific strategy. Recently, the C4 approved a cycle of workshops with the aim to further promote a collective, internal discussion of scientific strategies. The workshops, which are organized by C4 members, are dedicated to the research lines, infrastructures and competence centers. Each workshop is preceded by an online forum, where the relevant documentation is compiled and in which every LIP member may place questions to the groups involved. During the workshops, the groups are expected to address the questions and present their strategic plans for discussion, based on the already existing documentation. In 2021, the workshops taking place regard the LHC and Phenomenology (March), Biomedical Applications (June) and Detectors (November) research lines. A discussion followed where a majority of interventions defended the use of a wiki as the tool for the online forum.

### 5. Preparation of the LIP reports

- Catarina Espírito Santo summarized the characteristics and goals of the annual LIP detailed and public reports, then presenting the timeline for the elaboration of the 2020-2021 reports, with its several steps and deadlines. The first deadline is for filling the texts and relevant information in the database, until the 29<sup>th</sup> of January. Some specific recommendations from the Advisory Committee were presented and the groups are asked to take them into account when filling the reports. A bigger involvement of the C4 members is expected in the revision of the texts. LIP-ECO is available to provide all the explanations and technical support required. The reports should be concluded by the end of March.

## 6. Evaluation of the LIP researchers

- Ricardo Gonçalo summarized the LIP researchers evaluation process: its regulation, goals, procedures and outputs. The 2019 evaluation cycle is concluded and the SC board sent a global report (available in [Indico](#)) to the SC in July. Its main conclusions and recommendations were summarized, including a remark on the inadequacy of a binary classification. This has led the SC board to reactivate the committee which discussed the evaluation model of LIP researchers, currently composed by the SC board, Patrícia Gonçalves, Ruben Conceição and Sofia Andringa. The objective is to propose improvements, in time to be voted before the second evaluation period starts, in 2022. The 2020 evaluation cycle is ongoing, with sixteen researchers under evaluation and only a few interviews missing. The process is delayed with respect to the proposed timeline. Some remarks from the SC followed:
  - people interested in joining the committee are welcome and should contact the SC board;
  - the committee should gather feedback from the evaluators and the evaluated researchers;
  - the changes proposed by the committee will be discussed in the C4, then discussed and voted by the SC plenary;
  - from an evaluated researcher perspective, the process was considered useful, although there are already frequent funding calls in which researchers are evaluated and which imply a big investment of time;
  - from an evaluator perspective, the binary classification was considered inadequate, and the evaluation took into account the researcher level (junior, senior);
  - internal procedures of evaluation are fundamental for LIP and have a relevant role for the exterior (e.g. already in the scope of the Associate Laboratory call);

## 7. Other items

- Pedro Abreu asked for collaboration in the 2021 edition of the International Masterclasses on Particle Physics (dates announced by email), which will take place via *Zoom*.
- Without other matters to discuss, the SC board ended the meeting at 13h58.