

ASFAP Community Engagement Group: Activities Report & Future Plan

A. Group meetings:

The Community Engagement Group has managed to set up a monthly meeting time. Since April 2021, we have had 5 meetings as the C.E co-conveners / Admin; we discussed the scope of the group and different topics proposed by the ASFAP Community Engagement Conveners 1st meeting in April 2021.

We have identified 7 potential sub-groups:

- **Sub-group 1:** Physics communication and outreach.
- **Sub-group 2:** Technology transfer; Internet connectivity/ internet start-up resources; Applications and industry.
- **Sub-group 3:** E-lab & e-learning.
- **Sub-group 4:** Business development and entrepreneurship
- **Sub-group 5:** Public education and outreach; Diversity and inclusion and equity.
- **Sub-group 6:** Government engagement and public policy.
- **Sub-group 7:** Career pipelines & development; Retention; Capacity development.

BUT we have not been able to populate these sub-groups. We need more people.

In our meetings it was concluded that we needed more clarifications of the scope of the C.E Group as we had difficulties to distinguish our scope from that of the other engagement groups (Physics Education; Young Physicists Forum; Women in Physics Forum). It was decided that we should contact the Steering Committee and the other engagement groups.

We had a meeting with the ASFAP Steering Committee in November 2021; in this meeting, there were propositions of topics for the C.E group and a suggestion to set up a meeting with other engagement groups to discuss about collaboration.

We had a meeting with other ASFAP Engagement Groups and the Steering Committee on the 10th of February 2022. It was decided that all the Engagement groups should communicate amongst them as there topics which need collaboration between different groups. We agreed to have bi-monthly meetings; each meeting will discuss a specific topic and how concerned engagement groups can organise themselves to work together on the topic.

B. C.E Proposed Topics

During the meeting with other Engagement groups, on the 10th of February, the C.E group presented a draft of some of the topic we hope to work on in the near future. The topics include:

- **Physics and Environmental Pollution:**

How can we use Physics to resolve the problem of environmental pollution and to raise awareness of the local community on environmental pollution?

- i. Waste management methods:
 - a. Waste sorting
 - b. Burning of waste without harming the environment
 - c. Good recycling methods
 - d. Special collection bins of waste such as pharmaceuticals
- ii. Water purification methods
- iii. Education & Awareness campaigns on the safe disposal of pharmaceuticals and plastic waste (e.g., Community surveys; School visits; Radio Talks; Podcasts; website; etc)

- **Public outreach & Education:**

To create awareness and broaden community's understanding of Physics.

- i. Conduct a demographic survey on the views of the community on some of the crucial problems concerning Physics education and perception in Africa.

- ii. Periodic Trainings of Physics teachers in Africa
- iii. Virtual Physics laboratories
- iv. Annual Physics community fairs: to show the local community how Physics can help them in everyday life & introduce children to the fun of Physics;
- v. Organise campus visits for high school children to observe some fun Physics experiments
- vi. Weekend & holidays science classes
- vii. Physics Olympiads

N.B: We will discuss all these topics in the bi-monthly meetings with other ASFAP Engagement groups.

- **Establish ASFAP contact with the African Union & Engage local government authorities**

C. LOIs

Amongst the submitted LOIs we have noticed that some of them are related to our proposed topics; we are planning to discuss those LOIs in our coming meetings with other engagement groups.

D. Plans for promoting the C.E group & reach more people

The two problems that have impeded the progress of the C.E group are the lack of communication between the engagement groups and the lack of people.

In our recent meeting with the other engagement groups, we managed to establish a way of communication (bi-monthly meeting). We are hoping that in the coming days we will start to collaborate on some of the common topics.

The C.E group currently has only 4 co-conveners; to attract more people in the group we are planning to conduct a workshop to a workshop to advertise our activities to the physics community.