

(Section B1)

European Strategy for Particle Physics (ESPP)

A bottom-up exercise initiated by CERN Council (the governmental-level body responsible for the CERN Laboratory).

Collect the broad input of the scientific community, and conduct a process to form a consensus for a plan for defining priorities for the European particle physics activities (this takes typically 2 years).

The strategy is then approved by Council, and used as a (strong) guideline for the years to come.

The first ESPP was approved in 2006, and updates to the ESPP were concluded in 2013 and 2020.

Some elements of the managing the process:

- Steered by a preparatory group (typically 15-18 members, including some colleagues from other regions);
- Final strategy document drafted by a large group (ES) with all member states represented, plus lab directors, representatives from other 'nearby' disciplines, non-member states, and the preparatory group (order 50 people);
- Scientific working groups, special working groups about societal impacts, education, knowledge transfer, etc.

Last update:

- Launched early 2018 with a call for scientific input;
- Input closed Dec 2018, 160 White Papers (up to 15 pages);
- May 2019 Open symposium in Granada, 600+ participants, one week;
- Sep 2019 Briefing Book;
- Jan 2020 Strategy update drafting meeting with the ES, one week;
- Jun 2020 Council approval.

Result:

- A community driven input resulting in 20 recommendations;
- Guidelines for the activities at CERN, Europe and beyond supported by the European governments financing particle physics;
- Sets a framework within scientists can plan their future activities which are recognized by the funding authorities as priorities.

(Section B2)

The first step in building up a strategy, or to use a simpler word 'a plan', implies to know what are the activities, ambitions and plans of everybody.

Then one can try to identify fields of common interest, and enhance the chances to succeed by collaboration and synergies.

This is certainly true in talking to authorities and governments, which like to see some coherence in approaches, in order to be assured that resources are spend in a meaningful way.

But this is also true and can strengthen the participation in international collaboration, as I know from experience in the ATLAS Collaboration.

Building up common plans and eventually finding shared priorities can only be done when being informed what others do and would like to do in the future.

So these Letters of Interests are really a critical first step in the whole strategy process.

I felt and observed in the LA process (LASF4RI) it was indeed very important that all groups participated in the Eols/White Papers.

In fact initially some strong groups in HEP did not, as they thought maybe that this is not necessary for them, but it would have given a wrong picture about LA experimental HEP.

A good example in LA: common work on the DUNE neutrino experiment.

(Section C)

First of all I would like to congratulate all involved in the organization of ASFAP for a fantastic job so far, and for taking up a great challenge.

It is a pleasure for me to be involved as an external observer, and I wish you all success.

As you know better than anybody else, you need to keep up momentum, and I see one of the biggest challenges now to get the community of the whole continent more and more involved.

Obviously this demands a lot of time from you and of course the working group conveners.

They may need even more help to reach their communities.

I also have the impression that maybe some very active and busy scientists on various projects related to the different working groups are sometimes not yet fully engaged in the process.

But as I already mentioned it would be particularly also their roles to pull ASFAP forward.

It is the first time, so all this takes time, and I am afraid that the deadline for the Lols might turn out to be too ambitious (not because it would be difficult to write two pages, but because colleagues need to be convinced and feel comfortable to do so).

I hope my colleagues in the Observer Committee can help a bit, I have found it pleasant to work lately quite directly with the particle physics working group conveners.