

ARIES

Accelerator Research and Innovation for European Science and Society

Horizon 2020 Research Infrastructures GA n° 730871

MINUTES OF THE 5th ARIES GOVERNING BOARD

22 April 2021

Videoconference

ARIES beneficiaries and partner organisations present or represented:

ALBA	HUD	RHP
BHTS	HZB	RTU
BREVETTI	IAP	SOLEIL
CEA	IBA	STFC
CERN	IEE	ULANC
CIEMAT	INCT	ULUND
CNI	INFN	UNIGE
CNRS	IST-ID	UNILIV
COSYLAB	JGU	UOM
DESY	KIT	UOXF
ELI-NP	NIMP	USIEGEN
ESS	POLIMI	UU
FEP	POLITO	WIGNER
GSI	PSI	WUT
HIT		

Absent or not represented: SOLEIL, CNI, WIGNER, TWENTE

Agenda and presentations available on Indico:

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1015346/>

Welcome and Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The Chair of the GB opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

The quorum of the GB was verified and confirmed: 38/45 beneficiaries and partner organizations were present or represented by a proxy at the meeting.

The draft agenda was presented and approved.

The minutes of the [4th ARIES GB meeting of 22.04.2020](#) were approved.

Report on the implementation of the Amendment approved in 2020

Maurizio Vretenar informed the GB members of the implementation of the [Amendment to the Grant Agreement](#), which was approved in 2020, noting in particular:

- the change of two WP Coordinators: Nikolaos Charitonidis (CERN) for WP10 and Robert Ruprecht (KIT) for WP11, approved by the GB
- the termination of most of the NAs, and the extension of some of the JRAs and all TNAs for different periods up to 12 months
- the new target dates of some Deliverables and Milestones

Status of the Project, scientific progress and impact of pandemic

Maurizio Vretenar presented [the status of ARIES](#), noting in particular:

- that 3 Deliverables – D16.1, D7.4 and D1.1. – have been delayed
- all other Deliverables have been ready on time or almost on time
- some Milestones have been delayed (the schedule of Ms was not updated with the Amendment)
- 6 Milestones are still missing (3 concern workshop organization)
- that tangible scientific highlights of many WPs are already standing out, with more to come

As regards the impact of COVID-19:

- delays and difficulties have been largely and successfully addressed, thanks to the active involvement of the WP Coordinators

- reorganizing Transnational Access in remote mode worked well for some facilities and less well for others
- online participation, whilst missing the direct communications, has been very successful, in particular regarding the overseas and industrial attendance

As regards the use of the budget and resources:

- under-spending and under-claims of some beneficiaries are to be expected
- there was a similar situation in EUCARD2
- the precise situation will be known only after the end of the final reporting exercise (2 months after the end of the project)
- proposals for possible ways of reallocation of EC funding will be tabled at the last GB meeting in April 2022

Financial Status of the Project

Svet Stavrev presented the [financial situation](#) of the project at the end of 2020, noting in particular which partners appear to have significant underspending in their budget utilization.

The following points were made during the ensuing discussion:

- to avoid issues with the EC, the beneficiaries should not report to the EC their full costs; only a fraction which is sufficient to justify the requested EC contribution
- man-power usage exceeding 30% of the estimated PMs should be justified
- KIT, with some 300% of budget utilisation (over 3.5 MEUR), is a very special case; this overspending is due to a large number of additional TNAs units at the KARA facility, which results in significant additional access costs.
- KIT is not expecting additional EC contribution proportional to the additional TNA units provided (partial compensation allocated with the recent Amendment to the GA)
- The overspending of PMs by INFN is due to reallocation of travel funds to PhD students
- Contributions of users to the operation and experiments of TNA facilities should be considered in-kind, since there is no mechanism for EC compensation.
- If the Deliverables are achieved and the overall budget of the project is spent, the Consortium should receive the full EC funding of 10 MEUR.

Criteria for reallocation of EC funding after the end of the project

In the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

- the principles for reallocation of additional EC funding to some beneficiaries will be agreed by the GB at its last meeting
- the Coordinator, in agreement with the GB Chair, will implement these principles and calculate the final distribution of EC funding
- In EUCARD2, the additional EC funding was allocated in proportion to the additional matching resources, provided by some beneficiaries

- It may be more appropriate to distribute separately the unspent EC funding for TNA from the unspent EC funding for NAs and JRAs
- there may be issues with partners that over-claim the EC funding compared to the full costs they have used; in such cases the GB should decide if some penalties should be applied.
- there is no official mechanism allowing to transfer EC funding from one project to another, but it was done from EUCARD2 to ARIES thanks to an arrangement with CERN finance service

Action:

The Coordinator and Administrative Manager to prepare a proposal for the principle of redistribution of unused / unclaimed EC funding for approval by the GB in April 2022.

Vote on transfer of EC funding from UOXF to CERN

Decision:

The GB endorsed the proposal for a transfer of some 10 kEUR EC funding from UOXF (WP2, WP5 and WP7) to CERN, in order to cover travel costs of Oxford staff in the last year of the project.

Message by the Chair of the ARIES Advisory Board

Akira Yamamoto, Chair of the ARIES Advisory Board, made a [video-address](#) to the GB members.

He outlined the success of the project, and congratulated all partners on their achievements. He stressed the importance of the ARIES programme for accelerator S&T and its relevance to the European Strategy for Particle Physics. Finally, he stated his full support to I.FAST, the successor of ARIES.

Nicholas Sammut wished to thank the Project Coordinator and the WP Coordinators for their valuable and successful contributions.

Maurizio Vretenar pointed out that due to the commitments and good will of all partners, all difficulties, which the project has faced, had been adequately addressed.

Renewal of the chairperson for Year 4

Decision:

The GB members voted unanimously to extend the mandate of Nicholas Sammut as Chair of the Governing Board of ARIES for the fifth and final year of the project.

A.O.B.

Maurizio Vretenar made a proposal to hold the last GB meeting of ARIES in virtual format, which would be easier in terms of travel arrangements and reaching a quorum of presence. In the following discussion, it was agreed that a hybrid version of the meeting would be preferable (e.g. mix of physical and virtual presence), in case the final project meeting would be in person.

Maurizio Vretenar informed the GB members that there are plans for a closing meeting of the JRAs and NAs of ARIES to be held in person in December 2021, and the final meeting to close the TNAs would be held in April 2022 in person, in conjunction with the last GB meeting.

All agenda items being covered, and with no other AOB raised, the Governing Board meeting was closed by the Chairman.

S. Stavrev / 22.04.2021