

The role of Early Career Researchers in the Swiss Institute of Particle Physics

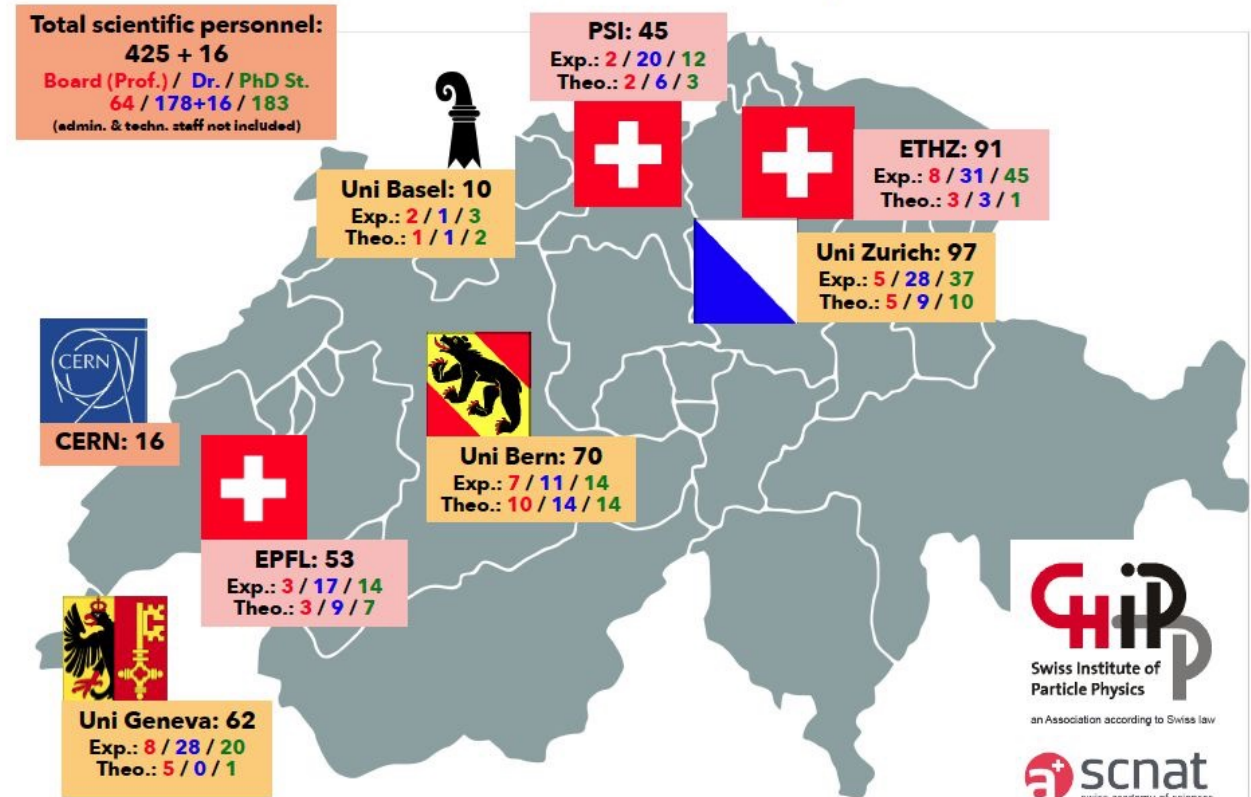
Robert-Mihai Amarinei, University of Geneva, CH 



Swiss Institute of Particle Physics → CHIPP

CHIPP is an association uniting researchers active in particle, astroparticle and nuclear physics in Switzerland. It strengthens the Swiss participation in international projects and committees, coordinates research and teaching activities in Switzerland, and promotes public awareness of the field.

Swiss Particle Physics Landscape 2021



CHIPP
Swiss Institute of
Particle Physics
an Association according to Swiss law

scnat
swiss academy of sciences

Source: CHIPP Membership
Database, 4 January 2021

The three pillars of CHIPP

Strengthening the following areas:

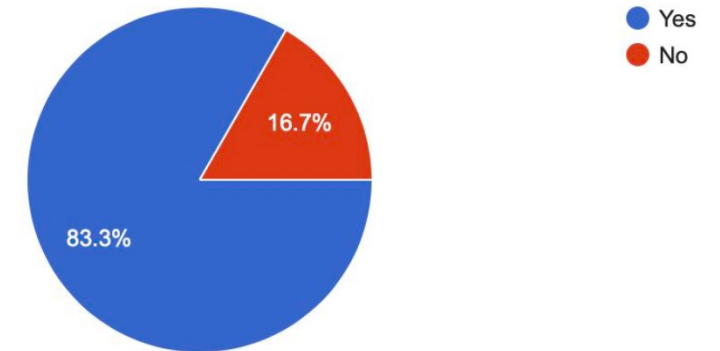
- Particle physics at the high-energy and intensity frontiers
- Astroparticle physics
- Neutrino physics

This is achieved by:

- Swiss participation in international projects
- Job opening circulation
- Coordinating teaching activities
- Promote public awareness on particle, astroparticle and nuclear physics

Do you think Switzerland is at the forefront of your subfield?

42 responses



CHIPP organisation

- 7-8 Meetings a year for the board:
- Chair: Prof. Ben Kilminster, University of Zurich
 - Vice-Chair: Prof. Michael Spira, PSI
 - Vice-Chair: Prof. Tobias Golling, University of Geneva
 - Vice-Chair: Prof. Paolo Crivelli, ETHZ
 - Administrator: Angela Benelli, CHIPP
- CHIPP Annual meeting:
 - Usually over a couple of days with satellite workshop

Clearly we need to voice our concerns...

- CHIPP Plenary 2016:
 - Part of yearly conference of Swiss Physical Society (SPS)
 - With PhD and Postdoc talks
 - CHIPP Plenary 2017, 2018
 - With ECR talks
 - CHIPP Roadmap workshop:
 - Theory input
- 56% of young theorists did not participate in any outreach event in the last 4 years.
- 78% would like to have more organised outreach activities.
- Interaction with society important for ECRs to see impact of their research on society

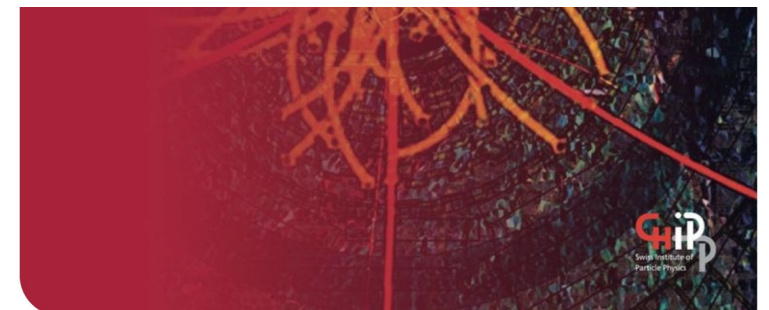
ECRs got some credit

ner over all branches of particle physics research. Particle physics research in Switzerland covers a large variety of cutting-edge research topics; it is important to help young researchers become familiar with their academic neighbours and to cultivate an informative and advanced picture about the scope and future of the field. We suggest that each Swiss institute and university prepare an overview

Young particle physicists were very interested in this roadmap update and desire a more regular collection of feedback. Having a 'Young People Vision' update roughly every two years could help, both to integrate the young researchers into the CHIPP community more effectively and to take their needs and viewpoints into account. In



the global cost, but also the sustainability of those infrastructures in terms of energy efficiency and the impact on the environment where the facilities will be located.



Forming the Early Career Researcher (ECR) Group

- A group of ECRs who organise events which facilitate the communication between seniors and early career researchers.
- On average 5-6 people per year (please contact us if you want to get involved)
 - Liaison managers (Robert-Mihai Amarinei, Armin Ilg)
- Spiez workshop organised in 2020 → First really big ECR implication
 - Flash talks
 - Poster sessions
 - “1 to 1” Coffee networking with seniors

ECRs effort culminated last year with the organisation of a 3-day sustainability workshop.


Sustainability @CHIPP



Image: CAMPUS SURSEE Seminarzentrum

Sustainability @CHIPP workshop at Sursee

M. Dittmar (CERN)  Development towards sustainability? “What do we want/need to do?”

V. Boisvert (Royal Holloway UK)  The Climate Emergency: can Particle Physics ever be sustainable?

What else for ECRs?

Schools:

- PSI Summer School
 - Since 1971! Recent iterations: [2016](#), [2018](#), [2022](#)
- CHIPP winter school
 - Since 2010. Recent iterations: [2017](#), [2019](#), [2022](#), [2023](#)
- COVID prevented some iterations of these schools
 - Make sure that a school per year keeps getting organised

CHIPP Prize: [Annual award](#) for best PhD thesis in particle physics → Soon for postdocs as well.

European committee for European accelerators (ECFA)

ECR Panel

*Members are, in general, **PhD students and postdocs, either with a non-permanent contract or with up to eight years after obtaining the PhD.** Up to **three members** (+1 for countries with LDG lab), among them at least one PhD student and one postdoc, can be nominated **by each ECFA country** represented in ECFA for a **mandate of two years, extendable for another two years.** Nominations are to be endorsed by Plenary ECFA. Members act as individuals, but should be able to represent the views of early-career researchers in particle physics in the nominating country.*

- From PhD students to young assistant professors
 - Theoreticians, phenomenologists, experimentalists, ...
- Diversity in cultural background, career and research, trying to represent the whole community
- 5 ECR delegates in Plenary ECFA, 1 delegate in Restricted ECFA, Organizing Committee
- Switzerland has 3+1 representatives: Armin Ilg (UZH, *Plenary ECFA*), Giuseppe Lospalluto (PSI/ETHZ), Elisabeth Niel (EPFL), Marko Pesut (UZH, *Organizing Committee*)
- Armin Ilg reaching end of mandate end of 2024 → Replaced by Pantelis Kontaxakis (UniGe)

This year focusing on careers

- Shorter grants
 - SNSF Spark, 6-12 months
 - University grants such as e.g UZH Candoc/Postdoc grants for up to 1 year
- Mobility grants
 - SNSF Postdoc.Mobility, 1–2 years
 - SNSF Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships, 1-2 years
- SNSF Ambizione (O(2) per year in particle physics)
- SNSF Starting grants (O(1) per year in particle physics)
- Important role of senior researchers/staff in research groups
 - Critical to keep knowledge at institute/in Switzerland long-term
 - Consider long time scales towards FCC-ee and beyond
 - More non-professor permanent positions would benefit the community tremendously!

Today... workshop on careers in academia

Organised with:

- Armin Ilg (UZH)
- Elisabeth Niel (EPFL)
- Giuseppe Lospalluto (ETH/PSI)
- Lorenzo Giannessi (UniGe)
- Marko Pesut (UZH)
- *Robert-Mihai Amarinei* (UniGe)

Structure:

- 10:10 → 10:50 Two talks
- 10:50 → 11:10 Coffee break
- 11:10 → 11:50 Other two talks
- 11:50 → 12:30 Panel discussion



Questions encouraged! Ask live or submit an anonymous question.

<https://forms.gle/DvQtyPzXBTRQtZo88>