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# Early-Career Researchers

## White Paper input to

# European Particle Physics Strategy Update

## ECR Workshop on the European Particle Physics Strategy

### CERN, 14.11.2024

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The CERN event organisers:

Jan-Hendrik Arling, Alexander Burgman, Axel Gallen, Abdelhamid Haddad, Laura Huhta,  
**Armin Ilg**, Krzysztof Mekala, Emanuela Musumeci, Leonhard Reichenbach, Daniel Reichelt, Francesco Pio Ucci

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**ECFA**

European Committee for Future Accelerators

Founded in 1963 (!)

Not limited to “future accelerators”

# ECFA ECR Panel

[...] to discuss **all aspects** that contribute in a broad sense to the **future of the research field of particle physics** [...] ..

Aiming to represent the European early-career particle physics community

- From PhD students to young assistant professors
- Theoreticians, phenomenologists, experimentalists, ...
- 3 members per country (+1 if LDG lab in country)
- Organization Committee (Marko Pesut, Jan-Hendrik Arling, Arnau Morancho Tarda)
- 5 delegates in Plenary ECFA, 1 delegate in Restricted ECFA
  - **Andrea Garcia Alonso, Lydia Brenner (RECFA), Patrick Dougan, A.I, Holly Pacey**

Our panel actually was created as a follow-up to the [ECFA Early-Career Researchers response to the 2020 Update of the European Strategy for Particle Physics](#) (rather ad-hoc, not a panel)

→ The ECFA ECR panel is tightly linked with the Update of the European Strategy

→ Make sure that this time ECRs are in the loop from the beginning!

# European Particle Physics Strategy Update: Remit

The Strategy update should include the preferred option for the next collider at CERN and prioritised alternative options to be pursued if the chosen preferred plan turns out not to be feasible or competitive. The Strategy update should also indicate areas of priority for exploration complementary to colliders and for other experiments to be considered at CERN and at other laboratories in Europe, as well as for participation in projects outside Europe.

The ESG should review and update the Strategy and add other items identified as relevant to the field, including accelerator, detector and computing R&D, the theory frontier, actions to minimise the environmental impact and to improve the sustainability of accelerator-based particle physics, the **strategy and initiatives to attract, train and retain the young generations**, public engagement and outreach.

# EPPSU timeline and structure



## 9 topical WGs:

- EW/Higgs Physics
- Strong Interaction
- Flavor Physics
- BSM
- Neutrino Physics and Cosmic Messengers
- DM and Dark Sector
- Accelerator Science and Technology
- Instrumentation
- Computing

1 ECR scientific secretary for each WG

- Anyone can submit input to the strategy (31st of March)
  - Future collider communities
  - E.g. ECFA countries, collaborations, ... → use this chance!
  - And us! → ECR White Paper
    - Focus on topics relevant to ECRs, not covered in topical WGs

# Process towards *ECR White Paper input to EPPSU*

Initiated by ECFA ECR panel, but open to all European\* ECRs<sup>†</sup>

- Preparatory meetings within ECFA ECR panel and with other ECR representatives
  - Discuss process, first ideas on possible topics to address
- 3rd ECFA Workshop:
  - Bring ECR community together, rally people to contribute to ECR White Paper
  - Define topics to address in ECR White Paper → Form WGs to address most important topics

\*: Focus on ECRs employed/hired in European institutes, but input beyond Europe appreciated

†: Non-permanent position or <10 years after PhD

# Highlights of Paris event

Number of participants:  
~ 55 in lunch and evening sessions

Some relevant statements:

- ECRs need...
  - **stable funding** and career **certainty** to support their professional development.
  - a **decision on future colliders** to be made as soon as possible.
  - **sustainability** to be taken into consideration.

Live survey findings:

- “ECR opinions and concerns taken into account” vs. “ECRs adequately represented in FC decision-making”
- Importance of an ECR White Paper

Some relevant questions:

- (How to) untangle next collider (i.e Higgs factory) decision from further downstream decisions?
- (How to) participate in potential CEPC?
- Role of sustainability?



# Working groups established\*

- Future colliders (incl. choice, priorities, timeline, sustainability, etc.)
  - Conveners: Jason Aebischer, Uli Einhaus, Axel Gallen, Armin Ilg, Krzysztof Mekala, Emanuela Musumeci, Leonhard Reichenbach
- Future particle physics experiments beyond colliders (added after Paris)
  - Conveners: Alexander Burgman, Elizabeth Sarah Long, Marvin Pfaff, Erik Wallin
- Communicating the importance of particle physics (present and future)
  - Conveners: Abdelhamid Haddad, Jan-Hendrik Arling
- Career prospects and ECR leadership (not only on future colliders)
  - Conveners: Christina Dimitriadi, Laura Huhta, Jan Klamka, Emanuela Musumeci
- Interplay of particle physics with neighbouring fields
  - Conveners: Alexander Burgman, Abdelhamid Haddad

Join [eppsu-ecr@cern.ch](mailto:eppsu-ecr@cern.ch) and *ECRs for EPPSU 2024* [Mattermost channel](#)

Join the WG channels

Some WGs definitely would benefit from more conveners!

Had 2-3 meetings per WG since Paris event

\*: More WGs can be added if there is interest!

# Process towards ECR White Paper input to EPPSU

Initiated by ECFA ECR panel, but open to all European\* ECRs<sup>†</sup>

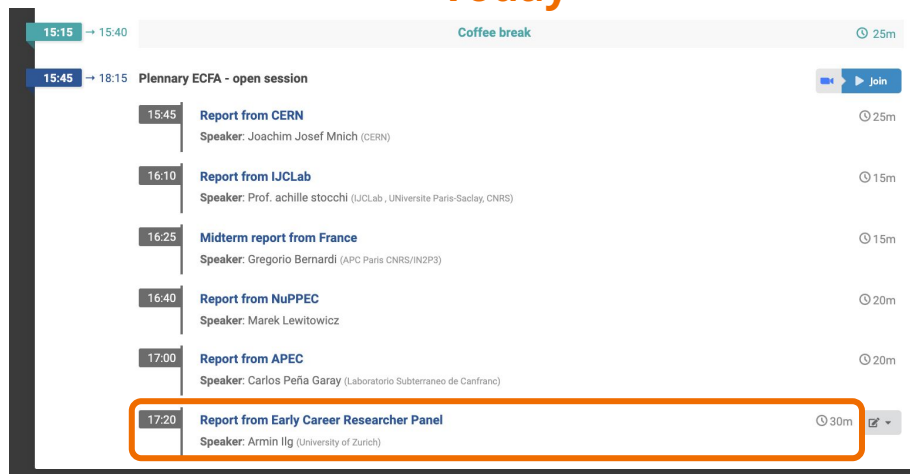
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  - Discuss process, first ideas on possible topics to address ✓
- 3rd ECFA Workshop:
  - Bring ECR community together, rally people to contribute to ECR White Paper ✓
  - Define topics to address in ECR White Paper → Form WGs to address most important topics ✓
- Online WG meetings ✓
- ECR Workshop on the European Particle Physics Strategy ← You are here
  - First plenary after start of WGs
  - Adjacent to (Open) Plenary ECFA meeting at CERN



# Open Plenary ECFA

- The ECFA member country, CERN, and the ECFA ECR panel have representatives in [Plenary ECFA \(PECFA\)](#)
- The November meetings are at CERN, with most of the meeting *open to anyone!*

## Today



The screenshot shows a meeting agenda for 'Plenary ECFA - open session' from 15:45 to 18:15. The agenda includes a coffee break from 15:15 to 15:40. The main session starts at 15:45 and includes several reports from different organizations, each with a speaker and a duration. The last item, 'Report from Early Career Researcher Panel' by Armin Ilg, is highlighted with an orange border.

Time	Topic	Speaker	Duration
15:15 → 15:40	Coffee break		25m
15:45 → 18:15	Plenary ECFA - open session		
15:45	Report from CERN	Speaker: Joachim Josef Mních (CERN)	25m
16:10	Report from IJCLab	Speaker: Prof. achille stocchi (IJCLab, Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS)	15m
16:25	Midterm report from France	Speaker: Gregorio Bernardi (APC Paris CNRS/IN2P3)	15m
16:40	Report from NuPPEC	Speaker: Marek Lewitowicz	20m
17:00	Report from APEC	Speaker: Carlos Peña Garay (Laboratorio Subterráneo de Canfranc)	20m
17:20	Report from Early Career Researcher Panel	Speaker: Armin Ilg (University of Zurich)	30m

# Open Plenary ECFA

Tomorrow

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER	
09:00 → 10:55	<b>HETF</b>
<a href="#">Zoom</a>	
09:00	<b>ESPP preparation</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Karl Jakobs (University of Freiburg (DE))	
09:20	<b>ECFA HET Factory study: Overall status and report planning</b> <span>🕒 10m</span>
Speaker: Christos Leonidopoulos (The University of Edinburgh (GB))	
09:35	<b>ECFA HET Factory study: WG1 Higgs, top &amp; electroweak physics and global fits</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Marcel Vos (IFIC Valencia (ES))	
09:55	<b>ECFA HET Factory study: WG1 Searches and flavour</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Roberto Franceschini (Rome 3 U.)	
10:15	<b>ECFA HET Factory study: WG2 Physics Analysis Tools</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Patrizia Azzi (INFN Padova (IT))	
10:35	<b>ECFA HET Factory study: WG3 Detector Technologies</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Mary-Cruz Fouz Iglesias (CIEMAT - Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas Medioambientales y Tec. (ES))	

11:15 → 12:35	<b>LHC experiments upgrades and plans</b>
<a href="#">Zoom</a>	
11:15	<b>ALICE upgrades and plans</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Felix Reidt (CERN)	
11:35	<b>ATLAS upgrades and plans</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Craig Sawyer (Science and Technology Facilities Council STFC (GB))	
11:55	<b>CMS upgrades and plans</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Katja Klein (Rheinisch Westfälische Tech. Hoch. (DE))	
12:15	<b>LHCb upgrades and plans</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Vava Gligorov (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (FR))	

14:00 → 16:00	<b>Accelerator R&amp;D areas</b>
<a href="#">Zoom</a>	
14:00	<b>Update on LDG</b> <span>🕒 10m</span>
Speaker: Prof. Dave Newbold (STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (GB))	
14:15	<b>High Field Magnets</b> <span>🕒 10m</span>
Speaker: Dr Ezio Todesco (CERN)	
14:35	<b>Radiofrequency Structures</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Igor Syratchev (CERN)	
14:55	<b>Energy Recovery Linacs</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Jorgen D'Hondt (Vrije Universiteit Brussel (BE))	
15:15	<b>Muon colliders</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Daniel Schulte (CERN)	
15:35	<b>Plasma Accelerators and the HALHF concept</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Erik Adli (University of Oslo)	
16:20 → 17:20	<b>JENA and others</b>
<a href="#">Zoom</a>	
16:20	<b>Report from the LDG Sustainability WG</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speakers: Caterina Bloise (INFN e Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati (IT)), Caterina Bloise (Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati (LNF)), Dr Maksym Titov (IRFU CEA Saclay, Université Paris-Saclay (FR))	
16:40	<b>Nuclear Physics at the LHC</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Alexander Philipp Kalweit (CERN)	
17:00	<b>AI/ML for Particle Physics: Building an Infrastructure with EuCAIF and Beyond</b> <span>🕒 15m</span>
Speaker: Sascha Caron (Nikhef National Institute for subatomic physics (NL))	

# Goals of this workshop

Questions that the WGs will address:

- **Motivation** for the WG and **what is it addressing?**
- What is not addressed in the WG or could be addressed in another WG
- What should the EPPSU ECR White Paper **yield, demand** or **change?**
- **Potential statements or contents** for the White Paper
- **Next steps** of the WG and **how to contribute**

What should the discussions bring?

- **Feedback** from everyone!
- Are there additional **questions, ideas,** or **concerns** that the WG should take into account?
- Collaboration with other WGs, to **avoid or benefit from overlaps**

# Agenda of today

09:00	<b>Introduction</b> 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN	Armin Ilg 09:00 - 09:20
	<b>WG: Communicating the importance of particle physics</b> 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN	Abdelhamid Haddad et al. 09:20 - 09:50
10:00	<b>WG: Future Colliders</b> 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN	Leonhard Reichenbach 09:50 - 10:20
	<b>Coffee break</b> 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN	10:20 - 10:50
11:00	<b>WG: Future particle physics experiments beyond colliders</b> 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN	Dr Alexander Burgman et al. 10:50 - 11:20
	<b>WG: Interplay with neighboring fields</b> 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN	Abdelhamid Haddad et al. 11:20 - 11:50
12:00	<b>WG: Career prospects and ECR leadership</b> 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN	Christina Dimitriadi et al. 11:50 - 12:20
	<b>Discussion about scope of WGs</b> 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN	Emanuela Musumeci et al. 12:20 - 12:40
	<b>Summary and next steps</b> 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN	Krzysztof Mekala 12:40 - 13:00

10 min of talk + 20 min of discussions per WG

13:00	<b>Lunch break</b> R1, CERN 13:00 - 14:00		
14:00	<b>WG meeting: Future particle physics experiments beyond colliders</b> Dr Alexander Burgman et al. 4/R-050, CERN 14:00 - 15:00	<b>WG meeting: Future Colliders</b> Armin Ilg et al. 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN 14:00 - 15:00	
15:00	<b>WG meeting: Career prospects and ECR leadership</b> Christina Dimitriadi et al. 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN 15:00 - 16:00	<b>WG meeting: Communicating the importance of particle physics</b> Abdelhamid Haddad et al. Zoom only 15:00 - 16:00	<b>WG meeting: Interplay with neighboring fields</b> Abdelhamid Haddad et al. 4/R-050, CERN 15:00 - 16:00
16:00	<b>Informal ECR discussion</b> Krzysztof Mekala et al. 40/S2-D01 - Salle Dirac, CERN 16:00 - 17:30		
17:00	<b>Open Networking in R1</b> R1, CERN 17:30 - 19:00		

# Process towards ECR White Paper input to EPPSU

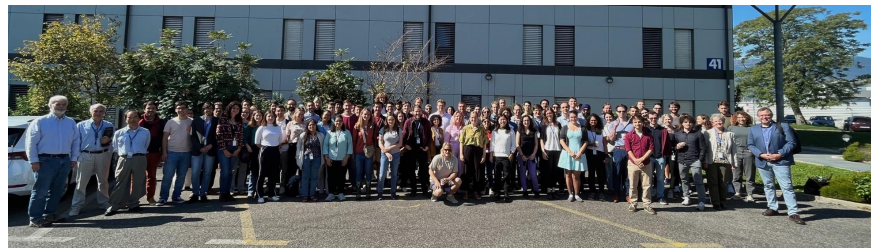
- Preparatory meetings within ECFA ECR panel and other ECR representatives ✓
- [3rd ECFA Workshop](#) ✓
- Online WG meetings ✓
- [ECR Workshop on the European Particle Physics Strategy](#)
  - Adjacent to [\(Open\) Plenary ECFA meeting at CERN](#)
- Continue online **WG meetings throughout process**
- White paper drafting
  - Mid-December: Draft of **White Paper sections by WGs**, lead by WG conveners
  - End of January: **First overall White Paper draft by WG conveners**
  - Mid-February: Consolidation of first overall White Paper draft by all WGs
- White paper feedback and consolidation
  - Mid-February: One-day **symposium/workshop** similar to today, **open again to all ECRs!**
  - From external advisors: Snowmass ECRs, ECRs from last strategy, some selected seniors
- Mid-March: Endorsement of White Paper by ECFA ECR panel, submission to EPPSU
- Follow the EPPSU and continue to voice interests of ECRs
  - e.g. at [Open Symposium in Venice, 23-27. June 2025](#)
  - Benefit from ECR scientific secretaries in Strategy group

←You are here

# Backup

# Future colliders

- [Future colliders for Early-Career Researchers](#) event in September 2023
  - Early-Career Researchers' Perspective on Future Colliders ([arXiv:2407.01852](#))
- Follow up with national, in-person events on future colliders, directing discussions into the ECFA countries focusing on country dependent issues
  - [Blueprint](#) for national Future Colliders for Early-Career Researchers events
  - [Belgium+Netherlands](#), [Nordic countries](#), [CERN](#), [Austria](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Czech Republic+Slovakia](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Italy](#) so far
  - [CERN](#) (22.11), and more planned!



# ECFA ECR panel

## Keep in touch with us

- [Our webpage](#) to find your country ECR representative
- [ecfa-ecr-organisers@cern.ch](mailto:ecfa-ecr-organisers@cern.ch)
- [Subscribe](#) to ecfa-ecr-announcements e-group to get notified about our activities!



# ECFA Early-Career Researchers response to the 2020 Update of the European Strategy for Particle Physics (report)

## General

- [...] must therefore include **sociological and sustainability aspects** [...]
- [...] funding for non-permanent positions is converted to funding for **permanent positions** [...]
- [...] **different states of maturity** of the projects were not taken into account sufficiently.
- [...] impact of collider projects outside Europe [...] has not been laid out sufficiently.

## Future of the Field

- While being **open** for future international projects, the ECRs emphasise the **importance of a European collider project soon after HL-LHC**. **Postponing** the choice of the next collider project at CERN to the 2030s has the potential to **negatively impact** the future of the field.

## Human and Sociological Factors

- [...] holistically **include social and human factors** when planning the future of the field.
- [...] **equal recognition and career paths for the various domains** of our field have to be established to maintain expertise in the field.
- The possibility for a **healthy work-life balance** and the reconciliation of family and a scientific career is a must.

## Environment and Sustainability

- A strong statement from CERN putting the **environment and sustainability** at the forefront of decision-making, aiming at becoming a carbon-neutral laboratory in the short term future, would have a **significant impact**.
- [...] higher **renewable energy** fraction.
- **Travel and conference schedules** [...] to reduce the amount of travel and the associated CO2 footprint.

## Computing and Software

- [...] recognised not only as means to do physics analyses, but **as research that requires a high level of skill**.
- [...] **minimise the time to produce physics results** allowing more person-power to be allocated to areas where innovation and development is truly needed.
- [to reduce CO2 footprint] our community can drive the development of new software for **remote meetings**
- [...] **open data** and [...] the need for **sharing knowledge and resources** with other computing communities.

## EW and Strong Interaction Physics

- Priority should be put on **precision measurements and global fits rather than model-driven searches**.
- Tighter **collaboration between theory and experiment** would enhance the precision of measurements.

## Beyond Standard Model, Dark Matter and Dark Sector Physics

- [...] **diversification of experiments**, building on projects such as Physics Beyond Colliders, [...] vital for the future of the field [...]

## Flavour, Neutrino and Cosmic Messenger Physics

- [...] **specialised smaller experiments** in the light sector are needed [...]
- Real-time observations between connected observatories [...] will be crucial in the future

# Future Colliders for ECRs, Sep. 2023 @ CERN ([indico](#), [report](#))



- There **are guaranteed discoveries** out there (e.g. Higgs self coupling and many more)
- Learn how to communicate importance of precision
- Future colliders are **worth** it
  - For science and society
- See **sustainability not as a concern but as a challenge**
  - To develop **technologies relevant for society** (e.g. high-temperature superconductors)
- Future collider R&D highly transferable between collider proposals (and beyond)
  - **Good ideas will survive a collider proposal or two...**
- It's a long time until any future collider is operational
  - Take **future collider decision as early as possible**, give ECRs a goal and timeline, ease grant application
  - **Long-term R&D** projects and support for **careers in instrumentation/engineering/accelerator physics/...**
  - Mind the **gap!**
- Huge **enthusiasm** for future colliders! (>100 participants in person and >100 on Zoom)
- Many aspects relevant for ECRs are country-dependent!
  - Created [national ECR event blueprint](#) and organised/organising national follow-up events
  - [Nordic countries](#), [Austria](#), [Czech Republic](#), [Czech Republic+Slovakia](#), [France \(Tuesday\)](#), [Germany](#), [Italy](#), [Belgium+Netherlands](#), [United Kingdom](#), and more planned!

# ECFA ECR letter to March 2024 CERN Council (see [report](#))

Dear CERN Council,

In the 70 years since its founding, CERN has not only established itself as the global centre of particle physics research but as a powerful symbol of international collaboration and scientific excellence. This would never have been possible without the unfaltering support offered by the CERN member states.

As a community, we feel immense pride and gratitude that we are part of this journey of scientific exploration and opportunity which CERN has pioneered. While the High-Luminosity LHC constitutes a much-anticipated and necessary advance in the LHC program, a clear path beyond it for our future in the field must be cemented with as little delay as possible. For the field to sustain the population, expertise, and enthusiasm required to overcome the challenges of what CERN's next major project/accelerator will present, the ECR community needs certainty without delay that High Energy Physics has an immediate future beyond HL-LHC, and that funding and positions required to realise our future will grow rapidly.

We, the ECFA Early-Career Researchers Panel, on behalf of the ECR community, would like to strongly urge the Council to make every effort to ensure that the process of evaluating, selecting and implementing potential future projects, which will define this century of High Energy Physics for Europe and the World, proceed with as quick a pace as possible, accelerating its time frame to start the European strategy process as early as possible and conclude by early 2026. This will go some way in helping further secure CERN's unique position in science, technology and international cooperation for the next 70 years and beyond.

Kind regards,

The ECFA Early-Career Researchers panel

**EPPSU started earlier than originally anticipated! ECR input has impact**

# ECR Session at LCWS24 (indico)



## Conditions for Future Project Excitement

### Physics:

- Must fully explore Higgs and electroweak physics
- Should probe beyond the Standard Model scenarios

### Technology:

- Must be **feasible in funding and technology**, allowing for innovative **upgrades**
- Should include **interesting and challenging hardware**

### Feasibility/Sustainability:

- Should ensure environmental sustainability and minimize ecological impact
- Must demonstrate **stable funding support and construction timelines** to attract early-career participation

### Time Scale:

- The project should be launched in a **timely manner to ensure sustainable career opportunities for ECRs**

### Other Considerations

- **Scientific work should be free from political influence and support a diverse, tolerant environment**



## **ECR Aspirations for Collaboration:**

### **Leadership and Participation:**

- Desire for **empathic leadership** with **well-trained management skills**
- Call for **transparent decision-making** and **impactful participation from ECRs**

### **Sustainability and Inclusivity:**

- Emphasis on integrating environmental sustainability from the beginning
- Advocacy for **inclusivity and adoption of work ethics that promote a supportive environment**

### **Communication and Quality:**

- Focus on **good communication and documentation**, valuing quality of work over quantity

## **Career Concerns of ECRs:**

### **Long-Term Viability:**

- Uncertainty about career stability due to a **lack of permanent positions and funding challenges**

### **Transitioning Projects:**

- **Difficulty in moving from large-scale projects to future initiatives while maintaining career prospects**

### **Funding Feasibility:**

- Concerns about funding large colliders due to current economic challenges create uncertainty for ECRs

# FCC Week 2024 ECR session (session, summary)



By the time a future collider is built, **today's ECRs will be the ones leading it**

- Are future collider **organisational structures** designed to give influence and decision making power to ECRs?
  - **Open nominations for convenor positions!**
- Appoint ECRs to convenorship roles within future collider related efforts (e.g. DRDs)

Uncertainties...

- How to **maintain current ECRs** (and their expertise) working in **engineering/auxiliary fields** for the LHC over long timescales?
  - Prevent gap after HL-LHC upgrades are finished!

Need better communication of how **precision measurements** translate to mass reach for new physics

# Early Career Researchers & Muon Colliders event (indico)

Early Career Researchers  
& Muon Colliders

Wed 28th August 2024 - Via Zoom  
14:00-18:00 (CEST) & 08:00-12:00 (EST)

Q&A  
Discussions  
Design Overview  
Call for External Speakers

Open to:

- Undergraduates
- Masters
- PhDs
- Postdocs
- Students etc.

Interested in:

- Physics
- Engineering
- Computing
- Mathematics
- Communication etc.

International Muon Collider Collaboration  
MuCol  
Funded by the European Union

## Significant interest of community in muon colliders

- **Sustainable** approach
  - Including people!
- Importance of **synergies to other (sub)-fields**
  - High-field magnets, nuclear fusion, ...
  - **New technologies**
- “No **showstoppers** identified” for muon colliders, “time is now”
- Recent **wave of excitement** about muon colliders due to access of **10 TeV partonic centre of mass** regime
  - Precision Higgs program **complimentary to Higgs factory**
  - Highly motivated physics targets that might be too heavy for the LHC, but only one order of magnitude above in energy