

## Physics brings Nations together, CERN and SESAME as examples

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Laws of physics are universally valid and provide an excellent basis for international cooperation between scientists from different mentalities, traditions, religions and political systems. Basic science cannot succeed without open communication without secrets and elementary particle physics needs large installations which require also cooperation with administrations and connections with even highest political levels. Particle physics has pioneered several steps in international collaboration.

CERN, the oldest European organisation, was founded after World War II not only to promote science in Europe but also to bring European nations together. In the past CERN has put at the disposal of physicists several unique facilities (continuing with LHC in the future) and consequently CERN has become in practice a world laboratory. The large scientific collaborations, called 'experiments', presently involving up to 2000 scientists and engineers, radiated into the political domain and contributed to establish mutual understanding and trust. They promoted cultural exchanges and sometimes even providing help to individuals.

The latest offspring of CERN is the SESAME Laboratory in Jordan with a synchrotron radiation source as the main facility. It was founded according to the CERN model under the auspices of UNESCO. Like CERN with two objectives - promote science in the Middle East and the Mediterranean Region but also serve the slogan "science for peace" in this conflict - torn part of the world.

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