

LHCXSWG post YR4: feedback and proposal survey

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(on behalf of the Steering Committee)

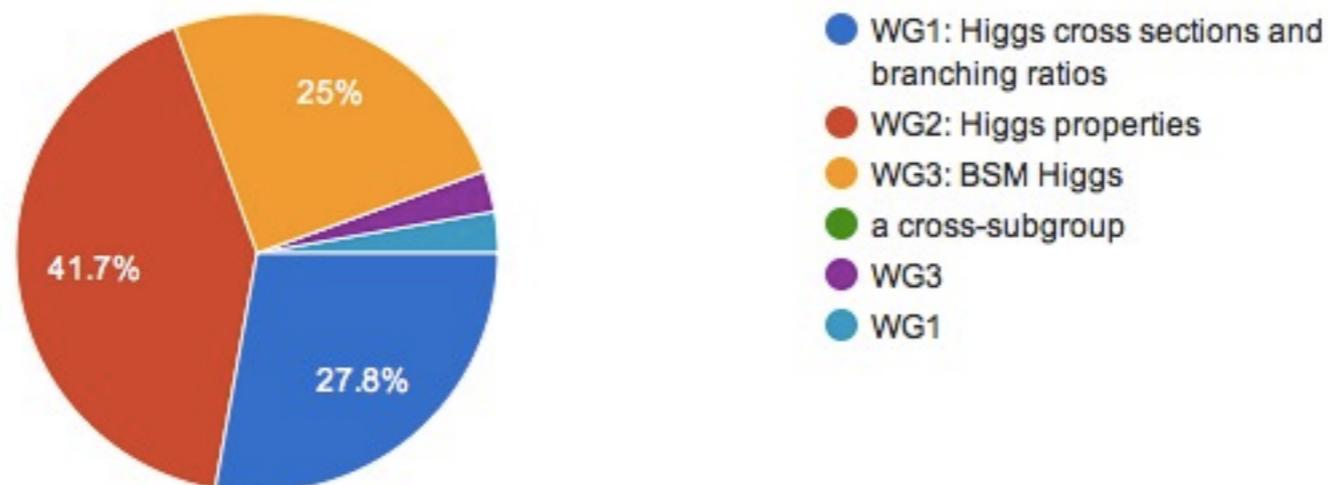
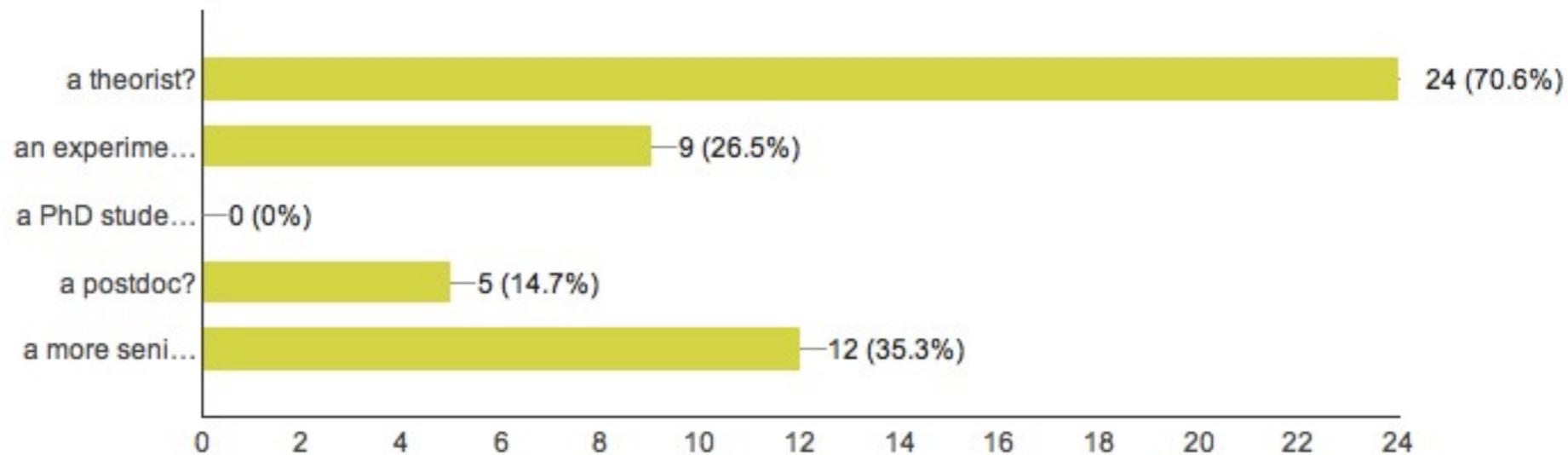
July 7, 2016

“Preparatory meeting about the future of the group”

<http://goo.gl/forms/tT0V9SpMNB>

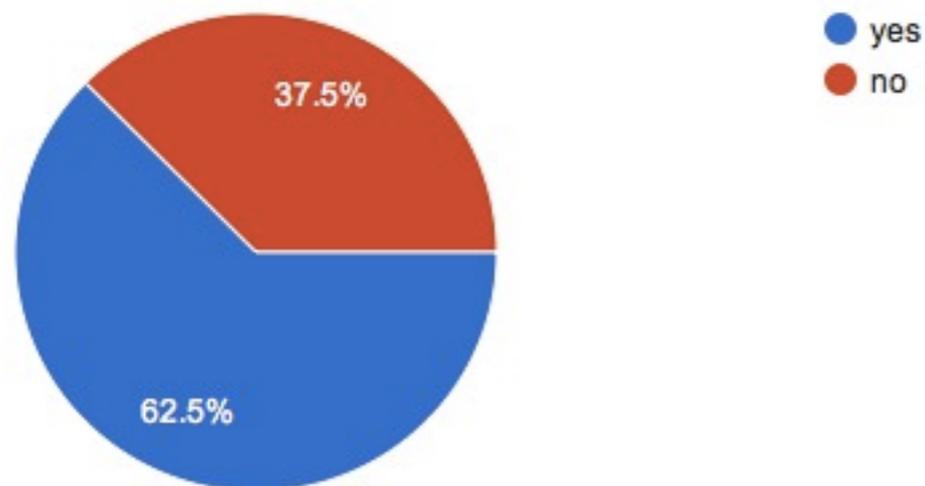
Survey launched on May 30, 2016 to collect your opinions and ideas
Some statistics:

- 40 replies (28 anonymous) -- beware of statistical uncertainty...
- who replied:



due to lack of space, all replies won't be shown here
(a more complete digest can be circulated if there is a popular request)

Do you think the hierarchical structure Steering Committee/WGi/subgroups is still appropriate?



interestingly: 40 people voted but only 18 gave comments and most of them were in favor of changing the structure

Remove middle layer

Make more WGs

Could add one more layer similar to WG1 and WG3

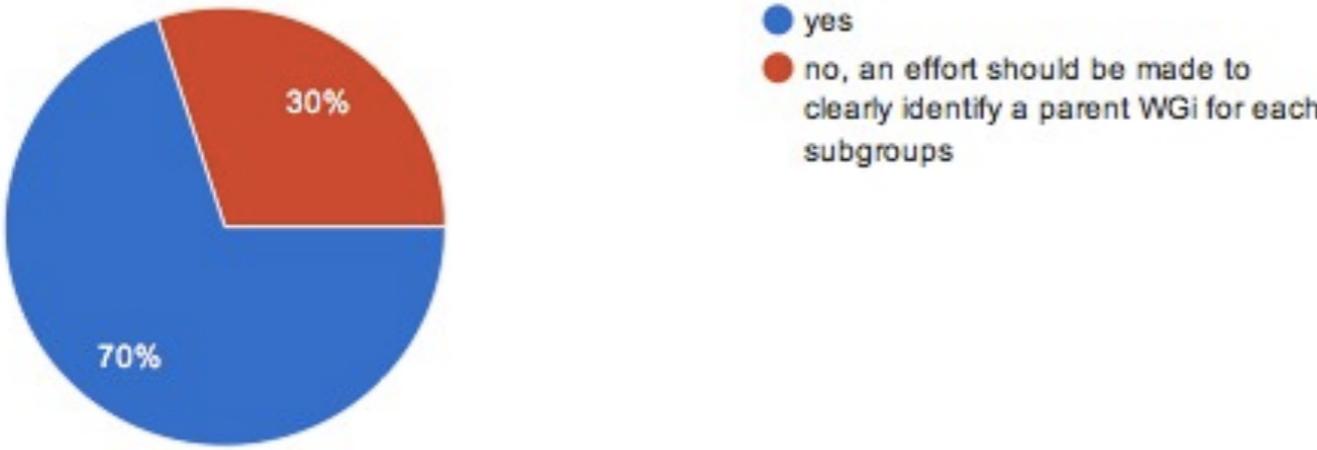
Less hierarchy would be better, e.g. the WGi conveners could form the steering committee (potentially augmented by few non-WGi-conveners if felt necessary for some reason).

For BSM Higgs at least, it is nice to have the relatively focused subgroups since discussion is easier.

I think a hierarchy is fine, but I think that there are already far too many sub-groups. I think that it would be helpful to have a discussion to really discuss if all are needed, rather than mirroring the structures that are already available within the experiments. I also think that we should work to make things a bit more flexible -- i.e. combine or remove groups when they are no longer relevant rather than only adding groups as more and more topics appear.

A hierarchical structure is certainly needed. What in my opinion is not working is the imposition of decisions from the highest levels, especially when a lot of work within the WG is done, and when the decision is clearly debatable, and debated

Would you keep some cross subgroups that do not fall in any WGi?



The various "sub-subgroups" made sense.

Cross groups are good, but they should be much more anchored in the parent WGs

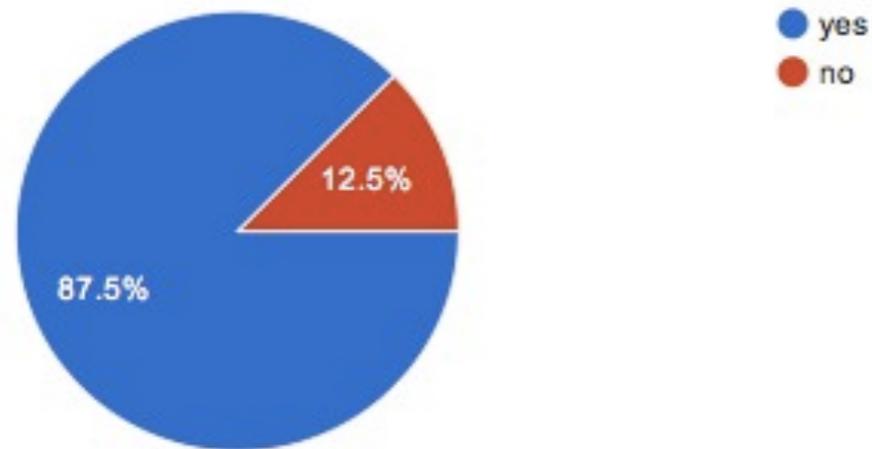
With a flatter hierarchy this question would not arise

Sometimes not everything fits into a pretty structure, which is fine. I think it's important that it's clear to whom the groups report, but we need to make sure that the structure is flexible enough so that people can work with home it is most effective for them to do so.

In principle I'm fine with cross-groups, given that some topics can have aspects belonging to several WGi. A clear identification would lead to a further splitting of these subgroups, which could also be fine, depending on if one wants to enlarge the N(groups).

Only those where there is a strong reason not to be subgroup of one WGi (e.g. I think the differential xsection cross group could instead be a WG2 subgroup).

Do you think that the divisions in 3 main WGi is appropriate/useful/fair?



40 people voted but only 7 gave comments

remove middle layer

I am not sure about WG1 and WG2. For WG3 I can tell you, though I am definitely very biased, that it was appropriate.

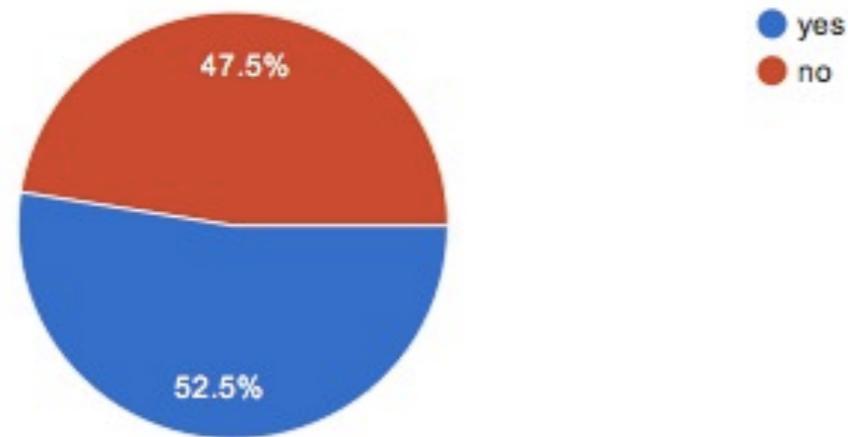
Some flattening of the hierarchy would help. As some topics are not easily assigned to WGi, but have well defined sub-groups, just a division into a larger number of sub-groups without WGi's could be more effective.

Clearly the organizational entities that have worked best are the individual subgroups. The association of subgroups with a specific WG is useful to the extent of having a specific point of contact in the executive board who represents the wishes/needs of a collection of subgroups. Another advantage of having a single executive board is that the precise boundary between overall WGs becomes less relevant.

3 main WGs are ok, however the internal structure of some subWGs is not fully transparent, in particular for what concerns YR4.

Meaningful smaller groups.

Would you be in favor of the Steering Committee theorists to be elected rather than being nominated by the Theory Advisory Committee?



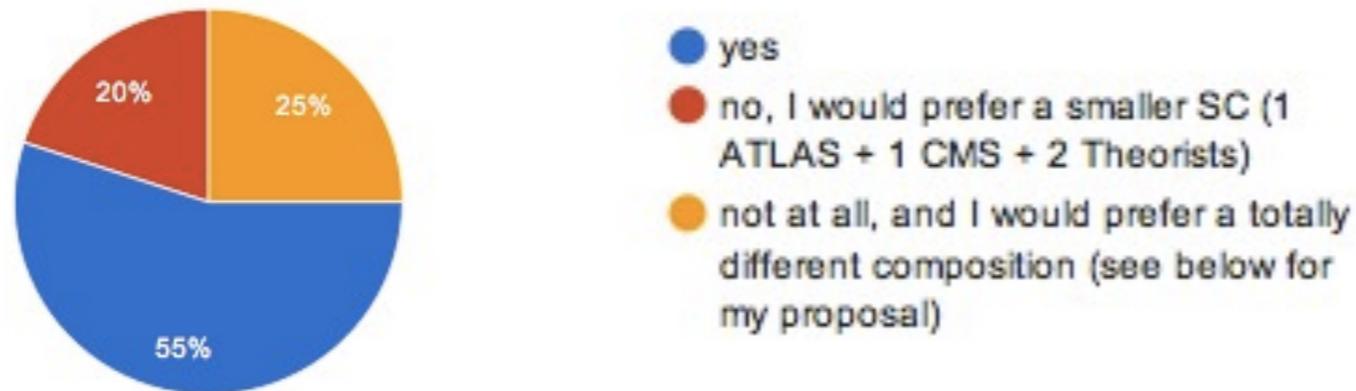
There are two questions. First I think it would be good to separate nomination (identifying a pool of suitable and willing candidates) and final selection/appointment. In general, the nomination itself can be the job of the TAC with maximal input from across the community. The selection is of course harder to make well-defined. At minimum it should be as transparent as possible and also involve the people behind the scenes who do all the work. I also do think that experiments (e.g. the current exp. executive members) can and should have some say in the selection of theory members (and also vice versa.)

I do not see how one could set up a voting process that would overcome the disadvantages of appointment by the TAC. However, I think every possible effort should be made to collect nominations from the community and to encourage wide participation in the nomination process.

I think that the theorist on the steering committee have two roles: firstly to represent the theorists, but also to be able to communicate with experimentalists -- that's the reason that I think that's its very important for everyone to be able to have a say.

After the Brexit referendum, it is clear that letting everyone vote is not a good idea. On the other hand, it is difficult to make a selection. I don't know what to suggest. Maybe one idea is to elect theorists from experimentalists, and vice versa. In this way, conflicts of interests should be minimised.

Do you think the current composition of the Steering Committee (2 ATLAS + 2 CMS + 4 Theorists) is appropriate?



I think that the Steering Committee should not include theorists.

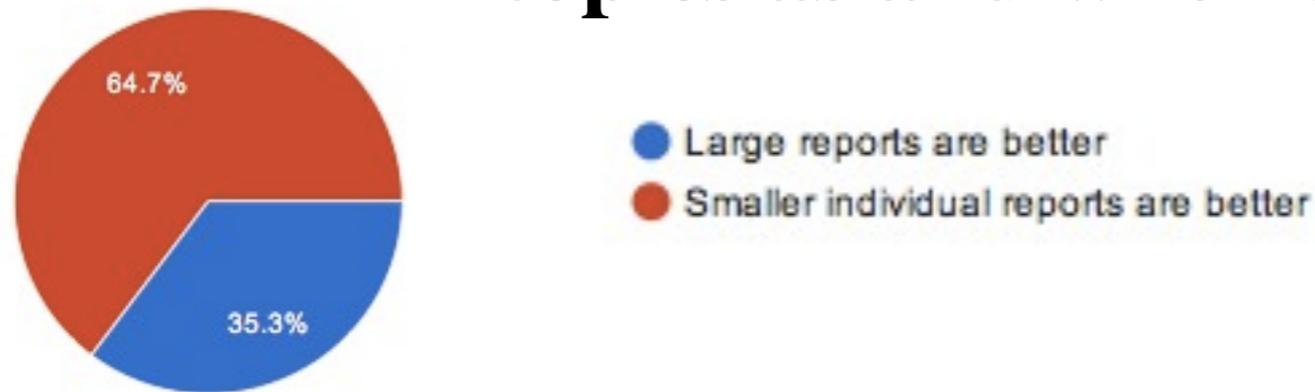
The steering committee could be made up of the working group conveners, maybe augmented with few (more senior?) non-convener members.

For the current structure (SC/WGi/subgroups) I think it is fine, though maybe it is beneficial to reduce it (e.g. as the 2nd option in the answers). However, the composition of the SC will critically depend on the remaining of the structure.

The current SC+WG conveners should simply form one management/executive board. This could be composed e.g. of 3 ATLAS + 3 CMS + 3-6 Theorists. Each member (theo or exp) could be "primary contact" for one WGi and possibly "secondary contact" for another WGi or just be the executive contact for a certain (related) subset of all subgroups (which then does not have to necessarily fall exactly into one WGi). In addition, there could be one or two "secretaries" (not "chairs") who are in charge of managing day-to-day operations/meetings etc. To increase transparency, minutes of management board meetings should in principle be accessible to a larger group (e.g. all subgroup conveners or all subgroup members).

Concerning bodies the general experience is that individuals do not always have time or power to follow the duties in full strength. In this sense I think two representatives per experiment are a minimum. If these are counterbalanced by four theorists this is absolutely OK an logic to me.

Is it better to produce a single large report every 2-3 years (as done currently), or smaller individual reports on specific topics as and when they are ready?



There is a significant benefit from large reports every few years where someone can find everything collected together. However, the current trend is that the length of the reports increases to a level that is not manageable. I think that if this trends continues the future reports may need to be broken up at the group level.

The smaller Notes (internal and public) have been useful, but I still feel that large reports collecting everything every 2-3 years should still be produced.

The CERN Yellow Report plus public internal notes system works well I believe.

* I'd like to emphasize again that I would strongly discourage another single large YR. It only has drawbacks and nobody needs a single large document. In particular, experiments being able to cite a single report is not a good reason, in fact this is a reason not to have a single report, as this really hurts the people (theo and exp) who do the actual work.

* It is important to recognize that theory works differently than experiment, and therefore the same collaboration structure that works well for the experiments is not necessarily a good model for the group. And the group should not be treated as another "LHC collaboration".

* In general, the structure of the group should be oriented toward its primary purpose, which ultimately should be to foster theory-experiment (and also theory-theory and exp-exp) exchange. The production of "officially blessed" documents/recommendations/... should not be the primary purpose/goal but only one (of many useful) potential outcomes.