

# Education communication and outreach; it's essential



why particle physics



why particle physics **is called high energy physics**

why particle physics

why particle physics **is important**

why **study** particle physics

why **learn** particle physics

why **don't relativity and** particle physics **make sense to the average person**

Perrine Royole-Degieux  
CNRS/IN2P3, France

on behalf of the European Particle Physics Communication Network

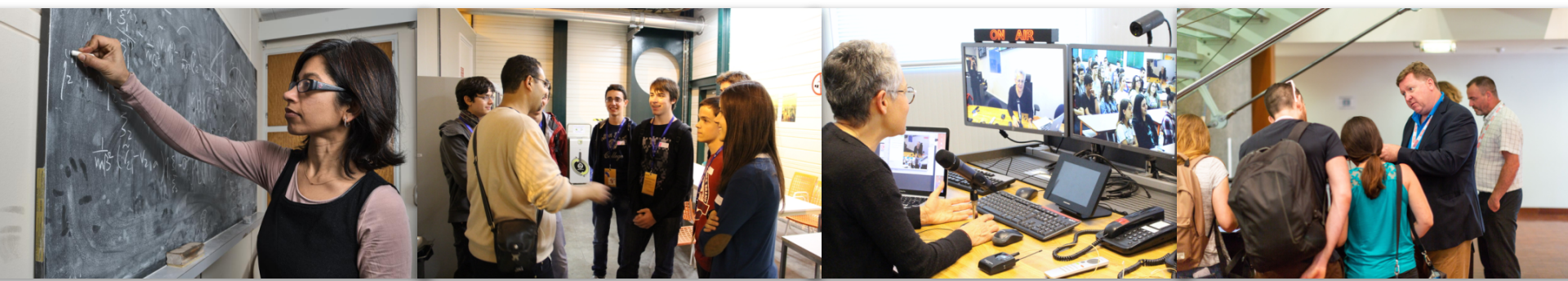
# One common goal: Sustain long-term future of the field



© CERN - Beam Line for Schools 2018

Inspire  
Educate  
Collaborate  
Secure support

# The ECOSystem



**Professional educators**

Help acquire knowledge, competence and confidence.  
Contribute to education research. Our gateway to the future.

**Professional communicators**

Advise management. Plan strategically. Help make good use of already existing channels. Monitor upcoming opportunities.

**Scientists**

Produce science. May be outreachers, teachers.  
Sometimes engage with decision makers and society.

→ **Coordinated work of all actors is crucial**



# Media relations

## WHO

press officers and communicator **networks** with the collaboration of scientists

## WHAT

press visits, statements and press releases (start-up, HE collisions), media events, media files, media training for scientists



# Public engagement

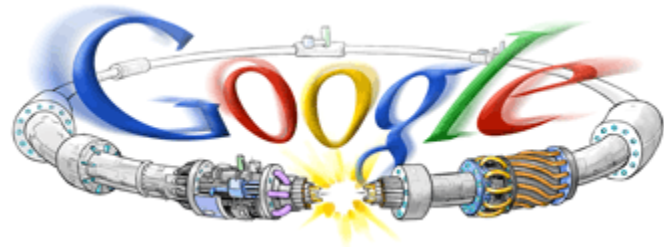


## WHO

Outreachers and communicators

## WHAT

Talks and debates, websites, exhibitions in museums, planetaria and public spaces, books, participation in science (and non-science) festivals, social media, events around movie release, Physics Slams, *my thesis in x minutes*, lab visits, open days, Researchers' Night...



# Educational programmes

## WHO

educators with outreach **networks** and communicators

## WHAT

teacher workshops, masterclasses, detectors in the lab, school labs, school visits, student internships, hands-on experiments for the classroom, particle physics schools...



# Corporate communication and political engagement



## WHO

communicators in coordination with institute, lab and university management, protocol office and CERN Council delegates, influential scientists, politicians...

## WHAT

Websites, social media, leaflets about country participation to CERN, VIP visits, annual report, impact reports editorials in newspapers, membership of Scientific Advisory Councils...



# The power of professional networks



## IPPOG

International Particle Physics Outreach Group. EPPOG since 1997. Collaboration since 2016



## EPPCN

European Particle Physics Communication network  
Since 2006



## Interactions

Communicators from world's particle physics laboratories  
Since 2001

**Networks are key for best coordination and consistent delivery of messages :**

- Run **multinational** campaigns while acknowledging **national and local** contributions
- Agree on press release protocol to speak in one voice
- Innovate locally and nationally sharing best practice

# Higgs is the new fundamental state...

NATURE | NEWS FEATURE

## Frontier experiments: Tough science

Five experiments as hard as finding the Higgs.

Nicola Jones

04 January 2012 | Clarified: 05 January 2012

## gravitational waves

This detection is indeed a big deal: one of the great discoveries of the decade - up there with the detection of the Higgs particle, which caused huge razzmatazz two years ago.

## Picturing a supermassive black hole

The long-awaited announcement was made simultaneously at multiple news conferences around the world by scientists participating in the Event Horizon Telescope project. The scale of the event was reminiscent of the announcements surrounding the discovery of the Higgs boson and the first detection of gravitational waves.

Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings a retweeté



**Abdulrahman Abotaleb** @abdoabotalib · 15 avr.

7 years ago, I was in #Lindau surrounded by hundreds of researches and +60 Nobel-Prized scientists watching the press conference that announced remarkable discovery; **Higgs** boson. I completely retrieved those unforgettable moments when I was watching the #BlackHole image revealing

Traduire le Tweet



# After the discovery:

building on reputation - capitalising - enlarging audience



Masterclasses with real Higgs data (since 2013)  
European strategy update (2013)  
CERN 60th anniversary (2014)  
Beam Line for School (2014)  
High School Students Internship Programme (2017)  
Teacher programmes  
Open Days at CERN and European labs  
Travelling exhibitions  
Collider exhibition  
Public event during HEP conferences  
Dark Matter Day (since 2017)  
HL-LHC media event (2018)  
and soon: CERN Science Gateway (2022)

...



GERMANY



UK



SPAIN



FRANCE



PORTUGAL



ITALY



CERN

Perrine Royole-Degieux  
EPPCN co-chair and CNRS/IN2P3  
15 May 2019, Granada, Spain

# Lessons learned

Plan!

Prioritise

Provide training

Engage early

Measure impact and outcomes

Coordinate and share best practice



# New challenges

## Science funding

- We compete for public attention and funding with other fields of science
- Our proposals are infrequent but seen as highly expensive when proposed

## Communications tools

- New formats emerge, field is quickly evolving
- Harder to keep control of a news story (social media radically changed the way we interact with audiences)



# Next scale in particle physics

© CERN / Ben Denison

Perrine Royole-Degieux  
EPPCN co-chair and CNRS/IN2P3  
15 May 2019, Granada, Spain



# Gain support from wider audiences

- Most of the cases we reach out to an already convinced audience
- Strong sceptics challenge our communication skills



- How to collaborate with other discipline ECO groups in neighbouring fields and beyond?
- How to encourage science journalism?





# Education is key

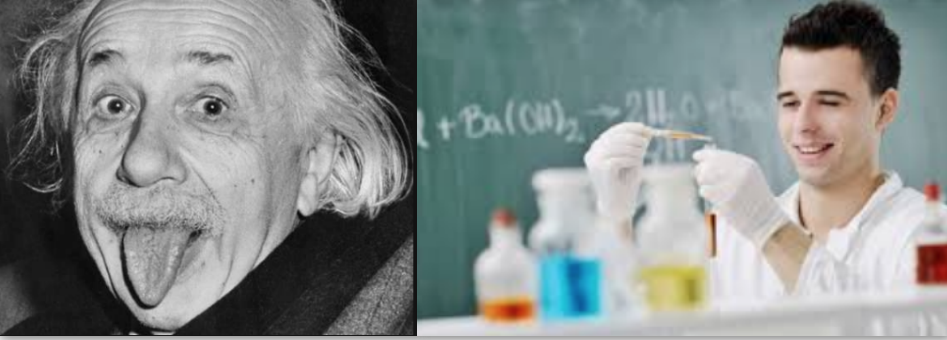
## Educate:

in particle physics (next generation of physicists)

in scientific methods and to critical thinking (future citizens)



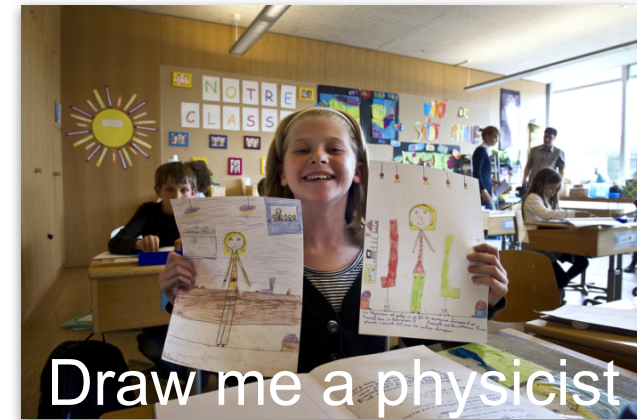
- How to make them enter school curriculum?
- How to improve science teaching methods?
- How to maximise impact of educational programmes?



# What does a physicist look like?

## Representation counts

Efforts have already been made, although there is a significant lack of diversity in our field.





# Demonstrate impact

We need to demonstrate economic, social and environmental impacts of our research, using appropriate metrics.



How to generate **support from third-party advocates** for our field (and its impact on society)?

# Coordination of ECO at all levels

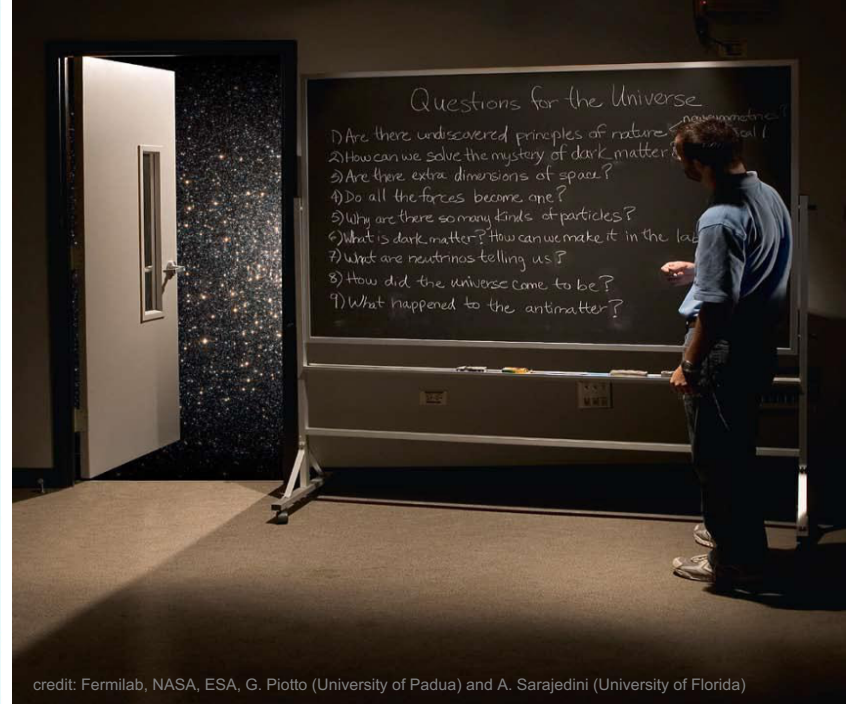


**Public support needed at regional, national, and international level.**

**Yet ECO resources are unequal across European countries and beyond.**



Shall we agree on a minimum human and financial resource to dedicate to ECO, nationally?



## New narrative needed



How to facilitate better collaboration between scientists, outreachers and communicators ? <sup>2</sup>



Supersymmetry cakes ©Katy Grimm

# The perfect recipe

- Write **compelling case** for particle physics
- + Develop **accurate and transparent** story
- + Fine tune and prioritise **messages** for each audience
- + **Train** the next generation of scientists



# Let's be ambitious

We're aiming at a new scale  
in fundamental physics.

In view of realising this ambitious plan, **education, communication and outreach** are key strategic pillars for our field.

# References

## Communicating particle physics matters (2018, EPPSU contribution)

[https://indico.cern.ch/event/765096/contributions/3295549/attachments/1785131/2906061/Communicating\\_particle\\_physics\\_matters - EPPCN contribution to EPPSU.pdf](https://indico.cern.ch/event/765096/contributions/3295549/attachments/1785131/2906061/Communicating_particle_physics_matters_-_EPPCN_contribution_to_EPPSU.pdf)

## Communications and Outreach for Science Laboratories and Facilities: Best Practice Advice for Directors, CEOs and Communications Managers (2017)

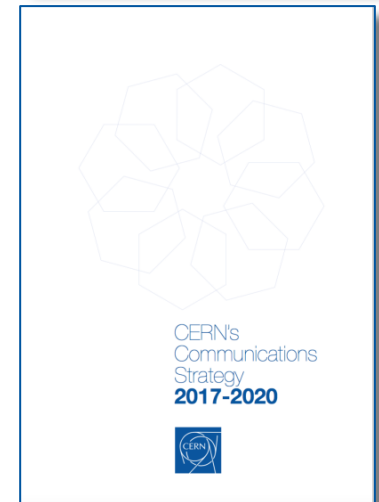
[http://www.interactions.org/sites/default/files/2017-03/Interactions-Comms\\_US\\_Letter\\_0.pdf](http://www.interactions.org/sites/default/files/2017-03/Interactions-Comms_US_Letter_0.pdf)

## Education and Outreach (2018, EPPSU contribution)

[https://indico.cern.ch/event/765096/contributions/3295747/attachments/1785273/2906293/EPPSU\\_IPPOG\\_final.pdf](https://indico.cern.ch/event/765096/contributions/3295747/attachments/1785273/2906293/EPPSU_IPPOG_final.pdf)

## CERN Communications Strategy 2017-2020

<https://communications.web.cern.ch/strategy>







Thanks to EPPCN, IPPOG and interactions members and CERN communication team for their input.



# Backup

© CERN / Charlotte Lesmesle

Perrine Royole-Degieux  
EPPCN co-chair and CNRS/IN2P3  
15 May 2019, Granada, Spain

# Particle physics communication networks



**Global network of leading communicators from the major particle physics laboratories**

<http://interactions.org/>

*Photowalk, Dark Matter Day, Peer Reviews, Particle people blog, press releases and coordination of global campaigns*

**Reports to ICFA**

**European Particle Physics  
Communication Network**

**Communications officers in the Member States with delegated authority to represent the communications activities of the Particle Physics community in their country.**

<https://espace.cern.ch/EPPCN-site>

**Reports to CERN Council**

# Social Media

are professional and efficient tools to:

- **share stories** (live)
- join a **conversation**
- **monitor** science news and audience
- talk to **journalists** and **decision makers**
- evaluate the **impact** of your actions
- **engage** new type of audiences and influencers
- maintain **reputation**

**Reactivity is key.**

**#ESPPUpdate**



# CERN On Social Media



 2012–2016

CERN gains a **new** social-media follower **every 2 minutes!**  
Communicating science through social media → reach **many different audiences in different countries.**

# What really matters on social media?

It's more than the numbers:

- Creating different types of content: news, facts, campaigns, human stories
- Using social-media features: lives, stories, photos, videos
- Adapting the tone: humour when it fits, professional when needed
- Collaborating with the scientific community
- Collaborating with influencers to reach new audiences
- Going deeper into the analytics to find out what people are saying about you

Social media provides a valuable contact with real people - it is an extension of real life.

