

Recent EIROforum activities

24 February 2020



Svet Stavrev (CERN)
Chair of the Coordination Group

Outline

- Participation in International Events
- Activities of Topical and Ad-hoc Working Groups

EUCYS 2019

Sofia, Bulgaria, 13-18 September 2019



The EIROforum prize winners, together with Charlotte Warakulle, Director for International Relations at CERN and Dr. Attila Borics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, who was President of the Jury.



Dr. Claire Lee from Brookhaven National Laboratory and the ATLAS experiment gave a talk at EUCYS19 and ComicCon on the Building Blocks of the Universe.

EIROforum at the EU Research and Innovation Days

Brussels, 24-26 September 2019

- More than 3000 participants
- Representatives of CERN, EMBL, ESO, ILL and XFEL provided input to the co-design process to shape the priorities and strategic plans of Horizon Europe
- EUROfusion had an exhibit stand and was present at the policy conference, and programme manager Tony Donné participated in discussions at the *Euratom Research for All* session
- Helmut Schober, Director of ILL, and Edith Heard, Director-General EMBL, participated in a panel discussion: *Let's speak about Europe's scientific excellence*
- Jana Pavlic from EMBL was a panelist in the session entitled: *Bridging, widening, sharing – lets advance Europe together*



ILL Director, Helmut Schober and EMBL Director-General, Edith Heard joined discussion with Valeria Nicolosi of Trinity College Dublin and Ben Feringa of the University of Groningen on the subject of scientific excellence in Europe. The session was chaired by Adam Tyson of the European Commission.

Topical and Ad Hoc Working Groups reports

- TWG International Affairs → report by Andy Williams (ESO)
- TWG Knowledge Transfer → report by Lluc Diaz (ESA)
- TWG Instrumentation → report by Andrea Murari (EUROfusion)
- TWG Information Technologies → report by Krzysztof Wrona (European XFEL)
- AHG Procurement → report by Evelyne Cudraz (EMBL)
- AHG Librarians → report by Tulio Basaglia (CERN)
- AHG Communications → report by James Gillies (CERN)
- AHG Enterprise Risk Management → report by Roberta Gregori (ESA)

TWG International Affairs

Overview of 2019 meetings:

- Representation of EIROforum at the Future of ERA work (July)
- Attendance at EU R&I days (September)
- Discussion with EC RI policy officers
- Meeting with Adam Tyson, Head of RI Unit and EC Officers (October)
- Future of ESFRI workshop (November)

Overview of activities:

- Writing & dissemination of the position paper *“European Research Infrastructures: Values, Role and Support in Horizon Europe”*
- Supporting CG in reformulation of EIROforum Charter

Plans for 2020:

- Re-establish EC connections after re-organisation in DG-RTD
- Support revision of strategic EIROforum aims in the field of external relations
- Potential joint EC activity on international cooperation
- ICRI 2020 (International Conference on Research Infrastructures)
- Meeting with EU Research Working Party to be organized.

TWG Knowledge Transfer

Overview of 2019 activities:

- Organisation of a [Project Day at ESI 2019](#) (European School of Instrumentation), in collaboration with TWG Instrumentation, with the goal of proposing technologies of the EIROforum members for the students to work on in groups.
- Preparation of the [EIROforum IMKTT Brochure](#), to promote the capabilities in technology transfer, infrastructure and innovation of the EIROs



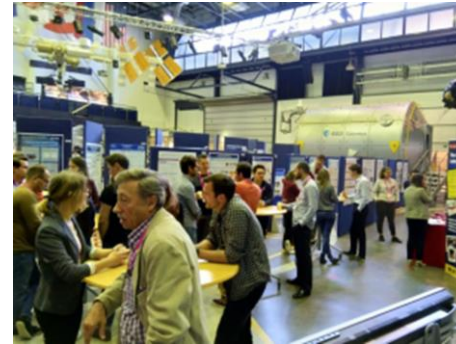
Plans for 2020:

- Participation to BSBF 2020 (Big Science Business Forum), proposal to have 2 days dedicated track to technology, knowledge and infrastructure utilizations
- Organisation of Procurement – IMKTT Workshop at BSBF 2020 in Granada
- Organisation of GRAD Workshop in Grenoble (9-10 April 2020): Promotion of irradiation facilities for high reliability electronics of the EIRO members and understanding of trends and needs of the industry.

TWG Instrumentation

Overview of 2019 activities and meetings:

- Organisation of ESI 2019 (EIROforum School on Instrumentation), 13-17 May at ESA
 - 73 young professionals, > 20 lecturers
 - Highlight Topic: Artificial Intelligence, jointly organised with IT WG
 - Technology Transfer Project Day, jointly organised with IMKTT WG
 - Poster session



Plans for 2020:

- Topical Workshop on “Big Data: from acquisition to data mining”, 21-23 April 2020 at ESO

TWG Information Technologies

Overview of 2019 meetings and activities:

- 2 meetings in April (ESO) and October (European XFEL)
- Contribution to ESI 2019, Artificial Intelligence highlight topic
- Interactions with EC on EOSC (European Open Science Cloud)
- Follow-up on HNSciCloud → PCP project, coordinated by CERN

Plans for 2020:

- Cloud computing (HelixNebula, HNSciCloud) and EOSC
- Reflections on IT procurement strategies and IT purchasing conditions
- Dialogue with the EC on H2020 IT work programme definition
- IT TWG meeting at European XFEL, 2-3 April. IT TWG meetings are seen as an excellent opportunity for the EIROforum labs to align their IT strategies, share very practical (sometimes highly confidential) information, discuss best practices to work with the IT industry in Europe and beyond.

2.3 Artificial intelligence highlight



The highlight topic of ESI2019 was dedicated to Artificial Intelligence - A.I. The A.I. topic was selected as it plays an increasingly major role in supporting the development of large scientific experiments and the processing of their associated datasets across all of the EIROforum organizations as well as in our daily life. The A.I. highlight sessions took place

AHG Procurement

Overview of activities / topics addressed at last meeting:

- Unified supplier database: sharing a unified database of suppliers with product categories and supplier evaluations
- Bank guarantee: benchmarking of conditions applied in the different EIROs is very similar
- Insurance: insurance portfolio very similar amongst EIROs
- Green procurement: discussions amongst EIROs on what could be improved: no formal policy as regards “green”/sustainable procurement currently, but ad-hoc initiatives taken: construction/renovation, equipment with less power/water consumption, cleaning contracts: eco-friendly cleaning products, sorting waste, green electricity...
- SMEs: some organisations have high expectations from their ILOs to attract more SMEs

Plans for 2020:

- Next meeting at ESRF in June 2020:
 - Electronic signature of contracts and status from a legal perspective
 - KPIs: which procurement KPIs are in place in the different organisations?
 - Savings guidelines and measurement in procurement
 - Buying professional services (legal, finance...)
 - Brexit (conditional topic, depending on developments)

AHG Librarians

Overview of activities / topics addressed at last meeting:

- Meeting at ILL-ESRF, Grenoble on 17-18 September 2019
 - Discussion on Plan S: an initiative for open-access science publishing, aiming for full and immediate Open Access to publications from publicly funded research.
 - Discussion on transformative agreements, aiming to shift the contracted payment from a library or group of libraries to a publisher away from subscription-based reading and towards open access publishing. **Libraries** seek transformative agreements to shift from paying subscriptions to paying for publishing.

Plans for 2020:

- Next meeting at ESA in October 2020

AHG Communications

Overview of activities

- Joint EIROforum DG Statement marking the LGBT STEM Day on 5 July 2019
- Prepared a draft of the joint statement on the 2022 International year of Basic Sciences for Development, approved by the DGs
- On the occasion of the DGA in Nov 2019, prepared a draft of a joint article on the upgrades and new facilities of the EIROs
- Discussions about the future of the Science in School magazine
- Updating the EIROforum website, Twitter page

Plans for 2020:

- Participation to ESOF 2020, Trieste



Motto: **“Freedom for science, science for freedom”**
Themes include: **“Breaking frontiers in science and knowledge”**

Existing confirmed EIROforum presence:

- Plenary talk from CERN Director-General



AHG Enterprise Risk Management

Overview of activities / topics addressed at last meeting:

Meeting at EMBL in June 2019

Exchanges on best practices:

1. Focus on IT tool (on SharePoint) to manage corporate risks
2. Considerations on whistleblower policies*: not a common obligation, anti fraud policies instead applicable

Whistleblower: An employee who discloses information that s/he reasonably believes is evidence of illegality, gross waste or fraud, mismanagement, abuse of power, general wrongdoing, or a substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

Main results or outcomes:

IT tool benchmark (ESA as example)

Data Risk and Cybersecurity as common challenge to be assessed

- ✓ For both points, synergies with other WGs to be exploited (IT and Cybersecurity, Data Protection)

Plans for 2020:

- Next meeting at EUROfusion in 2020

AHG Diversity & inclusiveness

Overview of 2019 activities:

- Participation to the ESA workshop: “*Exploring diversity in STEM: gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation*” (Jan 2019)
- Joint EIROforum DG Statement on UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science (11 February 2019)
- Joint EIROforum DG Statement on 1st International Day of LGBTQ+ people in STEM
- Exchanges on recruitment practices, on how to achieve a diversity and inclusion certification, on data collection amongst EIROs.

2020 activities:

- In 2020, the group produced a collection of interviews with scientists from the EIROs on the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (11th of February). They responded to the following questions:
 - How old were you when you decided to be a (STEM Professional)
 - What was your first scientific discovery?
 - Who inspired you to pursue a career in science / STEM?
 - What single advice would you give a 14-year old girl who is considering studying science / STEM
 - Why is gender diversity important in science / STEM?



Thank you !
Svet Stavrev (CERN)

