



Status update Sustainable APPEC

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Introduction

In the last meeting the GA discusses the proposal for a more sustainable APPEC. All APPEC members gave their opinions. In general there is strong support for stronger and effective coordination between the national agencies/research organisations via APPEC. Individual agencies are too weak to handle alone. With perspective to global developments (e.g. APIF, US, Asia) stronger European coordination is useful.

However there is a delicate balance between autonomy of agencies and APPEC coordination. INFN, CNRS/CEA, STFC mentioned they have own people in Brussels for lobby, have contacts with industry on a national level and report and prioritize to their own Ministries.

It was recommended to define more concrete and subtle the aims and tasks for APPEC taking into account this balancing act. This could lead to more specified tasks and accents in the organisation.

The form of a sustainable APPEC could be a strong central office or a more distributed organisation but with stronger commitments of APPEC members to fulfil their contributions (in-kind personnel and in-cash contributions) and form together an effective team with all expertise that is needed. This needs further exploration.

- Most countries can live with bit higher contribution.
- The members that are committed in the present MoU to a Functional Center with 2-3 FTE each (INFN, CNRS, DESY) feel committed to their MoU obligations.
- Netherlands and Czech Republic could contribute with some personal support to APPEC.
- Switzerland suggested to host the APPEC office at CERN.
- Germany, France and Italy were considering to make a bid if we open a procedure for a central office.

Status Update

The next steps were discussed recently in the Joint Secretariat. The Corona crisis forced us all to work from home. This experience learns that it is possible to form a good working virtual team. Based on these experiences and discussion we tend to further develop a detailed plan for a distributed APPEC workforce, under the condition that persons involved are available for APPEC tasks.

Our proposal to the Ga is to develop this plan in more detail with a small group of GA representatives of the most active APPEC Partners in the APPEC workforce: DESY, CNRS, INFN, Nikhef/NWO and UK. Further discussions will focus on aims, present and future commitments and the funding model. The detailed plan should be prepared for approval in the next APPEC GA meeting in December.