

PRESS RELEASE

HEPTech Capacity Building in Grant Applications

Representatives of the most enthusiastic in drafting grant applications HEPTech members met at the Workshop on Stakeholder Analysis for Funding Opportunities in High Energy Physics, which took place on 10th May 2016 at CERN.



Those who could not attend the workshop in person could benefit from the live web-cast and the fully recorded version that was made available by e-mail. The event was organized by the HEPTech network and the European Spallation Source (ESS) through the project BrightnESS - an ESS coordinated Horizon 2020 project, in which several HEPTech nodes are involved as consortium partners.

The aim of the workshop was to give an overview of currently available funding opportunities at European level and in particular for HEPTech specific research and innovation activities, as well as to provide practical exercises relating to identification of project aim and objectives.

All participants enjoyed the high professionalism of the ESS experts who presented the philosophy and principles of the funding institutions at EU level focusing on Horizon 2020 and discussing some other programmes of the European Commission. They made it clear that “Grants are about meeting the requirements of the funding institutions i.e. their policy aims, which is the right point to start from. In other words, how your project will help the European Commission to achieve its goals”.

The experts disclosed the business-centered nature of Horizon 2020 and explored the corresponding *reverse engineering approach* that starts with formulation of the problem and identification of the stakeholders who need the solution, continues with elaboration of the research questions, and ends up with the communities that are going to solve these research questions. They gave practical advice on how to read the policy documents of the funding programmes, what to look for, and how to align the project idea with the aims of the grant provider. The importance of the exploitation plan through which the research results are transmitted to the stakeholders and the dissemination strategy that has to provide different approaches to reach each of the various target groups, were discussed. The project impact, including in the fundamental research projects, was also addressed.

The main conclusion for the participants was that a winning project proposal should be problem-centered and that the bare scientific curiosity as an approach will not lead to success.

Vera Winter, from External Relations & EU Projects Group, ESS ERIC, provided an overview of ongoing and expected Horizon 2020 calls of potential interest to HEPTEch. The participants analysed the available options and selected four of them for further discussion.



Ian Tracey, the Network Coordinator, outlined two types of possible grant applications: those supporting HEPTEch directly (such as the COST proposals) and those enabling the collaboration among some of the members.

Under the Call for proposals *WIDESPREAD-04-2017 Teaming Phase 1* (Horizon 2020: Spreading excellence and widening participation) a possible consortium between ELI-ALPS, Hungary and STFC, UK was suggested. The parties need to discuss the idea between them and to explore collaboration possibilities.

The Call for proposals *SwafS-01-2016 Participatory research and innovation via Science Shops* (Horizon 2020: Science with and for society) was found appropriate for cooperation between IdeaSquare and CERN incubators. This possibility has to be further investigated and the interested parties have to be consulted.

A EUREKA call was considered potentially interesting for the participants in the nanotechnology AIME in October, depending on the national EUREKA funding agencies.

The forthcoming COST proposal collection in December triggered a lively discussion on the previous experience of the Network with applications for this funding source. Vera pointed out that COST is not a pure research or training programme. Instead, a COST proposal should establish a community bringing together interested parties that normally do not talk to each other, and this community has to solve a common problem and to define the follow-up research questions.



A guided discussion and a brainstorming exercise followed where the participants tried to find a topic of interest to HEPTEch as a network, to formulate a problem and identify potential stakeholders outside the network that might be interested in solving this problem. Then, working in two groups, the participants completed an exercise on defining the objectives of a COST action.

Finally, it was decided to put together the outcomes of the two groups, to re-think the Network's last COST application and to sit together in a dedicated meeting (to be scheduled and communicated) for drafting a new COST proposal.

The event was extremely useful in terms of providing know-how on how to approach funding programmes and project proposals. All presentations are available from the [event's web-site on Indico](#).

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