



## LASERLAB-EUROPE

### The Integrated Initiative of European Laser Research Infrastructures IV

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First general meeting of National Contact Points

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<i>Deliverable Type</i>	
R = Report DEM = Demonstrator, pilot, prototype, plan designs DEC = Websites, patents filing, press & media actions, videos, etc. OTHER = Software, technical diagram, etc.	R
<i>Dissemination Level</i>	
PU = Public, fully open, e.g. web CO = Confidential, restricted under conditions set out in Model Grant Agreement CI = Classified, information as referred to in Commission Decision 2001/844/EC	PU

## **A. Abstract / Executive Summary**

The First General Meeting of the network of National Contact Points took place on May 12, 2017 at the Max Born Institute, Berlin. The agenda of the meeting consisted of the following items:

1. Activity reports and work plans from NCP representatives
2. General discussion

## **B. Deliverable Report**

### **1 Introduction**

The network of “National Contact Points” (NCPs) acts as an information bridge between the Laserlab-Europe consortium and laser researchers, users, and science and policy bodies in countries with relatively small but emerging laser communities. The overall objective is to increase the participation of these laser communities in Laserlab-Europe’s activities, such as the transnational access programme, training schools or technical meetings. This networking activity therefore constitutes an important instrument for the successful development of the Consortium.

### **2 Objectives**

The objectives of the First General Meeting were to bring together representatives from all the NCP’s, as well as representatives from the Laserlab-Europe Management, and evaluate the activities carried out during the first 18-month period. After evaluating the activities carried out, another aim of the meeting was to define future activities for the network, as well as strengthening the collaboration within the network.

### **3 Work performed / results / description**

The meeting was attended by 11 participants, including the Laserlab-Europe Coordinator and the Assistant to the Coordinator.

#### **3.1 Activity reports and work plans from NCP representatives**

The main part of the meeting was dedicated to short presentations from each of the participants, describing the ongoing and developed actions towards the goals of this activity. Highlights of these activities include:

- Update list of identified key institutions related to lasers and photonics
- Update database of key contacts for dissemination of Laserlab-Europe activities
- Presentation to new communities e.g. industries and industrial clusters
- Promotion at scientific events: national and international conferences and workshops
- Promotion at outreach events e.g. Researchers Night and IYL2015
- Liaison with national bodies, networks and scientific societies
- Educational (BSc, MSc, PhD) and training activities, including hosting of Laserlab-Europe schools and user training
- Status of the infrastructure with regard to national roadmaps and user access programmes

- Relationship to the development of the local ELI facilities and communities (for the cases of the Czech Republic and Hungary)
- Plans concerning the development of the partners' infrastructures
- Articles in public newspapers and magazines
- Web and social media promotion
- Events for promotion and distribution of Laserlab-Europe materials
- Organization and participation in outreach events

The supporting slides for the presentations will be made available at the Laserlab-Europe internal pages.

### **3.2 General discussion**

#### *Evaluation and future strategy*

The Laserlab-Europe coordinator expressed his satisfaction with the range of activities, dissemination, training events and access programs developed by the several partners, with some activities even reaching a transnational audience. He remarked that in several cases there have been significant changes in the status of the national laser communities and access capabilities (e.g. CLPU). The ELI and HiLASE projects have also brought an increase in the laser development in their respective regions.

In view of these changes, he proposed that the common factor joining the members of this activity – originally identified as their underdeveloped laser communities and geographic location – should be replaced by an updated definition, such as: countries where the member facilities can have a strategic role in promoting Laserlab-Europe. This would allow the network to include new members that may not fit the previous definition, such as (associate members) Denmark, Finland, Belgium and Croatia. The Coordinator will contact representatives in these countries to invite them to join the Network of NCPs.

#### *New member communities*

The Coordinator emphasized the importance of passing the message that Laserlab-Europe is an “open club” that actively wants to attract new user communities, e.g. industrial and medical.

#### *Dissemination in non- Laserlab-Europe countries*

The Coordinator presented for discussion a request for financial support from the organizers of the “Photonica 2017” conference to take place in Belgrade in September 2017. It was discussed whether it is also feasible to promote Laserlab-Europe in countries not formally associated with it and it was decided that one of the network members will attend the conference to present a talk about Laserlab-Europe. It was also stressed that formally the access program is open to communities outside Europe, and communities such as Latin America, Africa and East Asia can be involved in the promotion activities.

#### *Next meeting*

It is decided that the next meeting will take place in about a year's time, co-located with another Laserlab-Europe meeting, with the location and date to be decided. It will not necessarily be a general meeting. Alternatively, the meeting can take place by using a video-conference system.

#### **4 Conclusions / Impact / Outlook**

The meeting brought together representatives or contributions from all the NCP's. Since some of the representatives were new, there was a strong emphasis in the mission and specific goals of the NCP's. The participants had an opportunity to evaluate each other's activities towards the dissemination of Laserlab-Europe in their respective countries, and share experiences and resources.