

Minutes of the 4th ESUO meeting held at ALBA – Barcelona 4th Oct (16:00) to 5th Oct (13:00) 2012

Attended by 18 delegation with 29 persons (see list of participants), missing delegations from Denmark, Sweden (cancelled due to illness), Belgium and the Baltic states.

1. After warm welcome note by Dr. A. Sanchez

Ulli Pietsch presented the report of ESUO activities during the last year. The main message was the start of CALIPSO (since 1.Sept.2012), the extremely reduced budget for ESUO (0.11M€) and the reduced number of deliverables (ESUO annual meetings, director meetings, first approach towards the formation of specialized user groups). In addition he addressed the importance to start negotiation concerning the next proposal for TNA in HORIZON 2020 which ESUO can do via formation of specialized European user groups. Finally the status of ESUO web presentation is addressed.

2. The 18 delegates report about the status of national users, highlights and problems. The reports will be published via ESUO website (2-4 pages pdf each). In summary of the talks the degree of user organization has been increased during the last year. Many countries among them Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Portugal still cannot maintain SR work without EU funding.

3. The delegations got the opportunity to visit ALBA synchrotron. There, 7 experimental stations are installed where 4 of them are in user operation. The second phase of installation is currently delayed due to financial problems of Spain.

ALBA managements invited the ESUO delegates for a business dinner.

4. The second day starts with election of the five user representatives for the CALIPSO EC:

The following 5 delegates were unanimously elected:

Krystyna Jablonska (PL)

Carlo Mariani (IT)

Ullrich Pietsch (GE)

Martin Feiters (NL)

Michael Kokkinides (GE)

5. The delegates discussed the situation in BIOSTRUCT-X after the report of Giuseppe Zanotti (member of the BIOSTRUCT-X project evaluation board) and considered sending a letter of the 3 ESUO representatives to the BIOSTRUCT-X EC with express of the users opinion about implemented procedures of TNA. The situation for users is not clear, it seems that each proposal is evaluated twice (ones by central board) and second by the facility, in addition the user has to apply twice. Finally it seems that the number of refunded experiments has been reduced since introduction of BAG proposals.

Finally delegates draft a letter to BIOSTRUCT-X EC and to the user representatives asking for clear explanation of the situation and for improving the user situation significantly (see attachment)

The delegates supported the approach to invite the 3 BIOSTRUCT –X user delegates and a person of BIOSTRUCT-X management to the 5th ESUO meeting to discuss the experience of TNA in detail.

6. Mirjam van Dahlen and Heinz Weyer (PSI) inform the delegates about the UMBRELLA project. It is a technical platform installed on top of user access platform of the facilities which provides user access by one and the same user account to all facilities. The project is still funded 2011-2014 in terms of PaNdata. UMBRELLA has the potency to generate a data platform collecting all relevant statistical information about TNA. ESUO supports the approach to implement UMBRELLA into Wayforlighth.

7. Next the delegates discuss possible ways to prepare themselves for HORIZON 2020. It is obvious that EU funding will not be possible anymore similar as done via ELISA or CLIPSO. One has to find new forms using following scientific calls or for infrastructure developments (for new beamlines/experimental stations?). For preparing ourselves for discussion the delegates agree to form 4-5 working groups based of scientific or instrumentation problems:

1. Energy and resources (Frodeval, Mayer, Maikova)
2. Instrumentation and standardization (Davila, Jablonska, Kover)
3. Life sciences and biomaterials (Lechner, Kokkinides, Bruendermann)
4. Cultural heritage and environmental and geosciences (French delegate?)
5. Advanced materials (surfaces and interfaces) and diluted matter and soft matter (Gross, Pietsch, Lechner, Kuk, Kover, Fernandes, Clegg, Kurtulus)

Delegates volunteered to work in these groups to form a specialized user group by attracting specialists from all member states. In a first step the groups will collect information which SR experiments are used within this thematic context or what kind of experimental stations are missed and what kind of standardization procedure can be implemented. Next the groups have to analyze the status of available experiments in Europe, eventually deficits and propose necessary developments and new experiments for future. A detailed and unified catalog of question is subject to define. The discussion will be realized on ESUO website. Respective entry points have to be installed.

8. Delegates discuss the date of the next meeting with SR directors. They agree to withdraw the offer for a meeting scheduled for Nov 27 at ESRF. The meeting should be scheduled in April or May 2013 after reasonable progress in the formation of specialized user groups.

9. The delegates discuss the status and future of ESUO website. Due to budget problems they agree the keeps the website on present shape and spend not more then 10k€ for maintenance (preferentially given to a student). Respective rights for changes are given to delegates on demand.

10. The delegates appreciate the offer by Swiss delegation to held the 5th ESUO user meeting at PSI (September 2013). Exact dates will be determined via doodle.

Ullrich Pietsch
6.10.2012