



LASERLAB-EUROPE

The Integrated Initiative of European Laser Research Infrastructures V

Grant Agreement number: 871124

Work package 1 – Management

Deliverable D1.4
4th Annual Meeting

Lead Beneficiary: 1 – CNRS

Due date: Month 48

Date of delivery: Month 48

Project webpage: www.laserlab-europe.eu

<i>Deliverable Type</i>		
R	Document, report	OTHER
DEM	Demonstrator, pilot, prototype	
DEC	Websites, patent filings, videos, etc.	
OTHER		
ETHICS	Ethics requirement	
ORDP	Open Research Data Pilot	
DATA	data sets, microdata, etc.	
<i>Dissemination Level</i>		
PU	Public, fully open, e.g. web	PU
CO	Confidential, restricted under conditions set out in Model Grant Agreement	



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 871124.

1 Objectives

The objective of WP 1 is to manage the overall project with respect to administrative, contractual, legal, ethical, financial, and technical issues to ensure highest quality of service and completing deliverables according to the time frame and budget foreseen. A particularly important issue is to monitor the progress of the project and the reporting to the project bodies in order to be able to take corrective action if necessary.

The aim of the annual meetings of the General Assembly of the project is to assess the progress of past activities, to decide on implementation plans for the following year and to create common understanding and awareness of the activities among all project participants.

2 Fourth annual meeting

Laserlab-Europe General Assembly meeting, 28-29 November 2023, Zagreb, Croatia

The 2023 annual General Assembly meeting was held in person during two consecutive days in Zagreb, Croatia, hosted by the participant CALT at the Institute of Physics. In total, 45 participants attended the meeting, including 10 partners joining the sessions online. The Director of the Institute of Physics, Dr. Osor Slaven Barišić, welcomed the participants in the meeting and gave an overview of the foundation of CALT and the scientific areas that are targeted.

The Coordinator Sylvie Jacquemot, CNRS-LULI, opened the General Assembly meeting. She congratulated the recent Nobel laureates Anne L’Huillier, Ferenc Krausz and Pierre Agostini who are or have been affiliated with Laserlab-Europe member institutions. In her Coordinator’s report, she presented Laserlab-Europe activities at the management level, including a joint event with ELI at the 2022 ICRI conference, presenting first findings of a joint report on the European Laser Research landscape. A summary of progress during the fourth year of the project followed this introduction.

Access Activities

Pascal D’Oliveira, the chair of the Access Board, presented the Laserlab-Europe V access programme and the achievements so far.

After the COVID pandemic, the access activities have caught up and the overall delay was substantially reduced. At month 47, 2642 days (96% of target) have been provided. The delay of the access programme has been further reduced to approximately 2 months (111 days). The number of projects carried out remotely represents 14%, as compared to 61% at the time of the first periodic report and 24% at the time of the second periodic report (1 year ago). This decrease shows that remote access still can be useful but that in-person access is largely preferred, equally by users and host labs.

The Access Board regularly monitors the access activities and prepared a reallocation strategy, based on actual performances and forecasts. The reallocation proposal for the final year of the project was presented during the meeting and unanimously accepted by the General Assembly.

User feedback

The user feedback questionnaire assesses the users’ satisfaction with various components of the access programme, from access publicity, proposal submission and selection procedure to services provided by the host facility. Since the start of the project, 88 questionnaires on completed projects have been received and analysed. The services of Laserlab-Europe are considered as “good” or “very good”, keeping the user satisfaction at its highest.



Joint Research Activities

Goncalo Figueira (IST) and Lucia Gardini (LENS), on behalf of the JRA coordinators, presented highlights of the scientific progress of the two JRAs:

- PRImary and SEcondary Sources – PRISES (Coordinator: Joachim Hein HIJ)
- Advanced Laser-based Techniques for Imaging and Spectroscopy in material science and biomedicine – ALTIS (Coordinator: Francesco Pavone LENS)

Even though some partners still have not fully recovered delays due to Covid-19 restrictions, all the deliverables are fulfilled. Overall, impressive results have been obtained. Examples were given during the meeting for each of the JRAs. Reaching high mid-IR pulse energies was for instance highlighted by PRISES as it will improve the sources available to Laserlab-Europe's users and expand the scope of their experiments; the joint development of an ion detector prototype was also mentioned. ALTIS pointed out the development of novel instrumentation for bioimaging, including portable and hand-held devices. The activities at LENS and ISMO led to two patents and one startup.

Networking

The chair of the Networking Board, Dusan Chorvat, together with several leaders of networking work packages, presented the progress to date of each work package. A few examples are given below.

- Following the successful experience with online formats, several activities have continued and expanded using this option. The series of Laserlab-Europe Talks that has been started in early 2022 has continued with regular public online talks on very diverse topics held by Laserlab-Europe scientists. The talks are widely announced within the community and recordings are put on the Laserlab-Europe YouTube channel with increasing interest.
- Social media usage has been extended with increasing numbers of followers in particular on LinkedIn and YouTube.
- The collaboration with neighbouring scientific communities has continued, in particular through the joint organisation of the Science@FELs conference. Laserlab-Europe is participating again in the programme committee for the 2024 edition.
- A meeting of the *Network on Extreme Intensity Laser Systems* (NEILS) has been organised in April 2023 at CLPU in Salamanca, Spain. The meeting aimed at reinforcing collaboration and exchange of knowledge in challenges of the HRR Petawatt science. It allowed for active participation and in-depth discussion of practical operational problems and possible solutions, which is the main benefit of the NEILS network meetings. A follow-up meeting in person is planned for 2024 at the CLF, UK.
- After the end of the pandemic, it was finally possible to organise hands-on training events. A Summer School on "Ultrafast Spectroscopy: phenomena, experiments and data analysis methods" was organised in Jyväskylä, Finland, in August 2023, consisting of lectures and hands-on workshops for 32 participants (+5 for lectures only). Two training events have been organised together with the project EURIZON: First, the CLF training weeks for high-power laser experiments in September 2023, two 2-weeks courses including a series of lectures, followed by practical modules, for 10 participants, and second, a "Training Course on Intense Laser Systems", provided by PYLA Training Center, Talence (Bordeaux), France, in October 2023, an intense 5-day training course, including 12 sessions of tutorials and lab works for 12 participants. All three training events required an application for participation and met with much more interest than could be accommodated.
- Within the foresight and sustainability activities, a laser landscape analysis and roadmap has been finalised in summer 2023 as a joint activity between Laserlab-Europe and ELI. The analysis is based on two surveys to identify the user needs and to understand the laser RI landscape in Europe. Following the presentation of first



findings at a side-event to the International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI2022) in Brno, Czech Republic, in October 2022, the landscape analysis has been finalised and published in summer 2023. Printed copies have been distributed to all institutions that provided input. Events are under preparation to increase public awareness of the analysis.

- Combining efforts in the work packages on foresight activities and industrial relations, a Foresight Workshop on Opportunities with Future Laser-based Technologies has been organised in Riga, Latvia in July 2023. The sessions addressed “Clean Energy”, “Cancer Research”, “Environment & Water”, “Materials processing” and “Photoacoustics” and involved speakers from Laserlab-Europe and other academic institutions, from companies and from a water management organisation. An exhibition area for companies from the Baltic region was provided.

Administrative issues

The second periodic report, covering 18 months from June 2021 until November 2022, has been submitted in early 2023. Following a review meeting with an external expert, the report has been assessed and approved by the EC, and the corresponding interim payment has been received and distributed to the partners in summer 2023.

For the present General Assembly meeting and in order to prepare an annual estimate of the cumulative expenses, to be submitted to the EC towards the end of the year, financial estimates have been collected from the partners. The budget estimate for month 48, corresponding to 80% of the project’s duration, shows expenses amounting to 78% of the project budget. Presumably, the amount is slightly underestimated as not all expenses had already been accounted at the time of preparing the financial overview.

By month 48, 18 deliverables for networking activities, 45 deliverables for JRA tasks and six deliverables on ethical aspects have been submitted. During the remaining 12 months of the extension period of the project, final deliverables on networking and on the access activities will be submitted.

Related projects

Several related projects, in which several Laserlab-Europe members participate, were briefly discussed, in particular Lasers4EU, which will allow continuing serving users on a large variety of scientific topics, as well as the more dedicated RI cluster projects ReMade@ARI and RIANA, which both involve different ARIE networks. The INFRA-TECH project THRILL, arising from the NEILS activity, was also presented.

3 Summary

The Laserlab-Europe Annual Meeting 2023 was held in person in Zagreb, Croatia. It was hosted by CALT, one of the more recent members of the Laserlab-Europe consortium, which provided a chance for all participants to visit its laboratories and significantly increased its visibility within the network. It was also an important opportunity for the participants to learn about tasks in which they are not personally involved. The meeting allowed for many discussions and personal interactions; it triggered exchange between the participants in the project regarding future joint research and networking activities.





Group picture in front of the new CALT building



4 Agenda

1. **Welcome and formalities**
Attendance, rules of procedure, agenda
2. **Status of Laserlab-Europe V - Coordinator's report**
3. **Report on Access Activities**
4. **Report on JRA**
5. **Report on Networking Activities**
 - 5.1 WP2 Publicity, Dissemination and Community Support
 - 5.2 WP3 Scientific and Technological Exchanges
 - 5.3 WP4 Training and Development of User Communities
 - 5.4 WP5 Access Management and Monitoring Infrastructure-Users Connections
 - 5.5 WP6 Foresight and Sustainability Activities
 - 5.6 WP7 International Relations
 - 5.7 WP8 Innovation Management and Industry Relations
6. **Administrative issues**
 - 6.1 Financial status of the project
 - 6.2 Redistribution of remaining funding
7. **Related projects and proposals**
8. **AOB, date and location of next meeting**

