



## LASERLAB-EUROPE

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Interim report on the NCP activity

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<i>Deliverable Nature</i>	
R = Report, P = Prototype, D = Demonstrator, O = Other	R
<i>Dissemination Level</i>	
PU = Public PP = Restricted to other programme participants (incl. the Commission Services) RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (incl. the Commission Services) CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (incl. the Commission Services)	PU

## **1 Introduction and objectives**

The objective of this activity is to establish and strengthen the role of the “National Contact Points” (NCPs) as an information bridge between the Laserlab-Europe consortium and the national science and policy bodies in countries with emerging laser communities. In particular, the NCPs interact with relevant initiatives of the ELI project towards building and consolidating the communities of researchers in eastern member countries. They also interact with other Networking Activities involved with User Training and the development of human resources for the future needs of the European research infrastructure.

## **2 Activities promoted by the Networking Activity Coordination**

- First General meeting of National Contact Points, 24 October 2013, Lisbon, Portugal
- Survey about the status of national laser infrastructures and activities carried out, March 2013
- Presentation of a short global report at the General Assembly meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, 23 October 2013

At the General NCP Meeting all the participating NCP representatives gave short talks describing the activities carried out under this Networking Activity. The supporting slides are available at the Laserlab-Europe internal web pages.

## **3 Activities carried out by the National Contact Points**

### **3.1 Building a user community**

Many partners have continued informing other national institutions about the Laserlab-Europe activities and events by regular mailing lists (CLPU, ICFO, IST, MUT, USZ, UL) and also to distribute the printed newsletter. In some cases, new mailing list have been set-up (INFLPR) or updated (CLPU, ICFO).

Partners where access is already implemented have organized targeted events such as an annual User’s Meeting (CLPU), or surveys to obtain feedback from researchers who participated in access (USZ). At PALS new partners/potential access users were established.

In Spain, CLPU and ICFO teamed with their national user’s representatives to organize a joint calendar of promotional activities.

### **3.2 Local promotion**

There has been a wide variety of initiatives targeting local promotion. One of the most used mechanisms is through seminars and public lectures, whether at the partners’ institutions or at other academic and research institutions in the country (MUT, INFLPR, PALS/ELI-Beamlines, UL, USZ).

The partners’ websites are widely used to link the Laserlab-Europe website and to distribute information about the Laserlab-Europe activities, events, access opportunities and job vacancies at other institutions (ICFO, IST, MUT, PALS, USZ, VULRC). One of the most used means of promotion consists in displaying the Laserlab-Europe roll-up poster (ICFO, IST, MUT, PALS, USZ, VULRC).

Concerning the organization of events where Laserlab-Europe was promoted, PALS organized the first ELI-Beamlines International Summer School (June 2013), and ILC organized a two week User Training Workshop on Biophotonics in Kosice, Slovakia (June 2013), attended by 17 PhD students and young researchers from 5 countries.

Other initiatives include excursions and visits for scientists and students (IST, MUT, PALS), publication of articles and press releases in the media (IST, PALS) and collaboration with the International Laser Centre SPIE Student Chapter (ILC).

### **3.3 International promotion**

Several partners have extended their promotion activities to neighbouring countries, CLPU participated with a stand in the exhibition RIAO/OPTILAS in Porto (Portugal), July 2013, to present the Laserlab-Europe project and the activities of its partners to the Latin American laser community. USZ sent information about access to foreign collaborating institutions.

UL has promoted networking among laser research and academic study institutions in Baltic countries, by preparing the organization of two training schools. These will be used to inform potential users about the opportunities provided by Laserlab-Europe, scientific involvement and practical advice.

### **3.4 Outreach / education**

The range of outreach and educational activities is very diverse, and in fact is one of the major strengths of this group:

- Open-Doors Day and Open Science Days (ILC, PALS), Researchers Night Event (INFLPR);
- Provide practical training to students in laboratory exercises and research placements (ILC, IST, PALS);
- Visits to the laser laboratory in the frame of courses for students (IST, MUT, PALS);
- Seminars / lectures to students (USZ), more than 50 lectures at Czech universities by the ELI-Beamlines team members (PALS);
- Organization of activities open to the public and user training events (ICFO);
- Presence in university events such as PoliFEST, Politechnical University Bucharest (INFLPR);
- Excursions for schools describing laser, photonics and applications and research highlights (ILC);
- Lectures in primary schools and major educational events for primary school students (ILC), secondary schools (IST);
- Organization of an annual workshop on lasers for secondary school teachers (IST);
- Start of a new PhD program in Plasma Physics, where high power lasers and applications are one of the highlights (IST);
- A new project GoPhoton! - Photonics for everyone was submitted to ICT Call 11, FP7-ICT-2013-11 under the lead of ICFO, with several members of the consortium belonging to the Laserlab-Europe network. The project has been evaluated with high score and is starting in January 2014, aiming to increase awareness about the importance of Photonics within the EU member states.

### **3.5 Connection with other European projects / Human resources**

INFLPR organized the ELI Academic Forum, where Laserlab-Europe was introduced to academia involved in ELI, and the ELI Industrial Forum, where Laserlab-Europe was presented to the SME technological cluster established at Magurele Bucharest.

ILC, representing Laserlab-Europe, started a collaboration with the University of P.J. Safarik, Kosice, coordinators of the FP7 project CELIM - Fostering Excellence in Multiscale Cell Imaging. This collaboration allowed Slovakia to join the EuroBioImaging (EuBI) initiative, which is a project on the ESFRI roadmap.

IST has submitted an application of their laser facility to the Portuguese roadmap for national research infrastructures (October 2013), which is strongly linked to the future Portuguese strategy for ESFRI participation. Additionally, this application was coordinated with other Portuguese research institutions working in lasers.

### 3.6 Other activities

Information about Laserlab-Europe was presented by the NCPs or their representatives at the following events, via a talk or through the distribution of promotional material:

#### *Czech Republic*

- SPIE 2013 International Symposium on Optics & Optoelectronics, Prague, April 2013

#### *Lithuania*

- Lithuanian National Physics Conference, Vilnius, June 2013

#### *Latvia*

- Developments in Optics and Communications (DOC), 2012 and 2013
- Annual Solid State Physics Conference, 2012 and 2013
- Joint Workshop on manipulation of light by matter and matter by light, (FP7 IRSES TLL-COLIMA), Riga, July 18-19, 2012
- Biophotonics-Riga 2013, Riga, University of Latvia, August 26-31, 2013

#### *Poland*

- Breaking Frontiers: Submicron Structures in Physics and Biology, XLVIII Zakopane School of Physics, 20-25 May 2013, Zakopane

#### *Portugal*

- RIAO 2013 – Latin-American Optics Network, Porto, July 2013; collocated with ETOP2013 – Education and Training in Optics and Photonics
- National Physics Conference, Aveiro, September 2012

#### *Romania*

- National Conference on Physics – TIM 2013, Timisoara, 22 November 2013
- “Modern Laser Applications” INDLAS 2013, Bran, May 20-24
- Seminar at the Institute for Electronics Engineering and Nanotechnologies, Chisinau (Moldova), 25 November 2013

#### *Slovakia*

- Week of Science and Technology, exhibition centre Incheba, Bratislava, 5-11 November 2012
- 8th Annual Seminar “Fotonika”, Senec, February 14-15, 2013
- Seminar “Nanotechnologies and Smart technologies”, ILC, 12 December 2013

#### *Spain*

- Summer School of Ultrafast Laser Science and Applications, Mahón
- X National Optics Meeting, Zaragoza

- XXXIV Biannual Meeting of the Royal Spanish Society of Physics
- 23rd Iberian Encounter for physics education, July 2013, Valencia
- International Symposium of Ultra-Intense Laser Science, Salamanca
- Closing meeting of the SAUUL network, Salamanca
- 3rd User Meeting of CLPU, Salamanca