



## LASERLAB-EUROPE

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

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WP8 – Network of National Contact Points

D8.2

Second general meeting of National Contact Points

Lead Beneficiary: IST-ID

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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 second general meeting of the network of National Contact Points took place on May 22, 2019, as video conference. The agenda of the meeting consisted of the following items:

1. News from the NCP representatives
2. 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 second 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 since the first meeting in May 2017. In addition to evaluating the activities carried out, the aim of the meeting was to define future activities and recommendations for best practices for the network.

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

The aim of the meeting was to share experiences and best practice recommendations between the members of the NCP network. The meeting was attended by seven participants, including the Project Manager of Laserlab-Europe, and was held as video conference.

Agenda details:

1. News from the partners
  - Highlights from NCP activities 2017-2019
  - Plans for the next six months
  - Other relevant information
2. Discussion
  - Overall evaluation of the NCP activity in Laserlab-Europe IV
  - Input for the Laserlab-Europe User Meeting
  - Next steps

#### **3.1 News from the partners**

Each partner provided a summary of the NCP-related activities performed at their laboratory since the first General Meeting held in Berlin in 2017. Some of the partners who could not attend the meeting due to scheduling conflicts also sent a list of activities by email.

Highlights of these activities include:

- Inclusion in national roadmaps for laser research and laser infrastructures, e.g. LaserLab Portugal
- Participation in outreach activities e.g. Researcher's Night and Day of Photonics

- Organization of or participation in Laserlab-Europe User Meetings and workshops, e.g. Foresight Workshop, and networking with other participants
- Educational (BSc, MSc, PhD) and training activities, e.g. organization of Laserlab-Europe training schools in Hungary and the Czech Republic
- Individual interaction with researchers in national networks to provide information about Laserlab-Europe and access opportunities
- Interaction with researchers from the ELI facilities
- Promotion at scientific events: national and international conferences and workshops
- Distribution of Laserlab-Europe promotional materials

### 3.2 Discussion

The partners were asked to provide their personal overview on the outcome of the NCP activity in the course of the current project, as well as to share their experience regarding best practices and communication.

The overall impression was positive and the partners did not report specific obstacles related to their work as NCP.

It was stressed that personal contact remains the most effective communication channel and that young researchers should be involved in the dissemination activities.

There was a suggestion for the creation of a list of guidelines summarising the best practices related to scientific dissemination and networking in the context of the NCP activity, which was strongly supported by everyone. The meeting chair volunteered to promote the creation of this document until the end of the project.

There was also a suggestion to create a short (2-minute) video about Laserlab-Europe, specifically about access opportunities. The idea was generally supported and it was suggested to present the proposal at the next Management Board meeting.

As suggestions for the 2019 User Meeting, the partners provided the following suggestions:

- Ask the users for feedback about their access experience and how best to motivate new users
- Invite potential users from new communities to attend the meeting and become engaged with the network. In particular, NCPs should identify specific persons in their countries who could be interested in applying for access or in communicating the access opportunities within their teams/institutions.
- Make a presentation about the access programme / national contact points at the user meeting.

Finally, as a next step the meeting chair reminds the partners that a final report must be submitted by M48 and that all the partners will be contacted in due time.

## 4 Conclusions / Impact / Outlook

The meeting brought together representatives and contributions from the different NCPs. Since there had been changes of representatives, the participants agreed that there was a need for guidelines or a handbook with recommendations for feasible and effective actions of NCPs, which would also facilitate the take-up of similar actions by all partners in Laserlab-Europe.