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EURO-LABS

EUROpean Laboratories for Accelerator Based Science
HORIZON-INFRA-2021-SERV-01-07 Project EURO-LABS

MILESTONE REPORT

CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO BE HOSTED AT ECT*

MILESTONE: MS8

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Abstract:

This report documents the process enabled by ECT*-European Centre for Theoretical Studies in Nuclear Physics and Related Areas for the activation and tracking of submissions of eligible projects within EURO-LABS.

EURO-LABS Consortium, 2024

For more information on EURO-LABS, its partners and contributors please see <https://web.infn.it/EURO-LABS/>

The EUROpean Laboratories for Accelerator Based Science (EURO-LABS) project has received funding from the Horizon Europe programme dedicated to Research Infrastructure (RI) services advancing frontier knowledge under Grant Agreement no. 101057511. EURO-LABS began in September 2022 and will run for 4 years.

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	Name	Partner	Date
Authored by	G. Aarts	FBK-ECT*	19/01/24
Edited by	G. Aarts	FBK-ECT*	19/01//24
Reviewed by	G. Arts [Task coordinator] A. Maj [WP coordinator]]	FBK-ECT* IFJ PAN	21/01/24
Approved by	A. Navin [Scientific coordinator]	GANIL	22/01/24

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Executive summary

The report defines the role of the various scientific bodies of ECT that compete in the selection of eligible users for access to the infrastructure and financial support from EURO-LABS funds for TA activities, in coordination with the rules described in the GA.*

1. INTRODUCTION

ECT*, within the EC's HORIZON EUROPE programme, receives support as a Transnational Access facility through the contract EURO-LABS from September 1, 2022 for a duration of four years (under Grant Agreement No. 101057511).

This access includes local logistical, technical and scientific support as well as specific training which is provided to external researchers using the infrastructure.

The coherence of this milestone is inherent in the role of ECT* within WP2: TA1/VA1-RIs for Nuclear Physics; Task 4.B: Description of research infrastructures offering theoretical support for experiments, as a scientific infrastructure that offers forms of participation in Transnational access to researchers in the centre's subject areas of expertise.

The European Centre for Theoretical Studies in Nuclear Physics and Related Areas (ECT*) offers a broad spectrum of activities for established and young researchers, theoretical and experimental physicists from all over the world (users). The scientific projects are carried out under the responsibility of the Scientific Board (Selection Panel) and with the supervision of the Director (task Leader).

All ECT* activities are open to all qualifying users (participants). Participation is, however, limited by the capacity of the Centre and goes through a selection procedure.

Projects carried out at ECT* can be dedicated workshops and associated collaboration meetings. The role of the projects is to enhance cooperation and discussions among small groups of workshop participants in order to stimulate new scientific endeavours and joint research activities. Project proposals can be submitted online through an ECT* web interface.

2. SELECTION PROCEDURE

2.1. CALL FOR PROJECT

The call for application to projects framed in the ECT* activity is opened through the institutional website (<https://www.ectstar.eu/activities/workshops/>) at the beginning of the year prior to the one in which the activity will take place. The opening of the general call is publicized through an internal mailing list of approximately 800 members (ECT* Associates), who represent the scientific target community

2.2. SELECTION OF ANNUAL PROJECTS

The selection of projects and group leaders are decided by the ECT* Scientific Board. This internationally composed Selection Panel has an excellent record of working efficiently and in accordance with scientific excellence.

The selection procedure is as follows.

i. The Scientific Board, which acts as Selection panel, has two or three annual meetings (usually in January, June, October), during which it carries out the selection of the projects and the nomination of the project group leaders that should benefit from access.

ii. Time schedule:

January meeting: definition of major research topics, and possible projects for the next year followed by a call for proposals announced on the ECT* web page and disseminated to the community

iii. Selection criteria:

- Scientific excellence
- Timely and forefront scientific topics
- Balance between theoretical and experimental research
- Interdisciplinarity with other/related fields
- Professional status of the project leader and organisational skills
- Balance between nationalities as well as senior/junior participants

The selected projects, once approved by the Board, are announced on the web and publicized by email to the ECT associates and to research institutions worldwide.

3. SELECTION OF EURO-LABS ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

3.1. CRITERIA

The call for project applications is sent to the Board via a special web form:
<https://www.ectstar.eu/activities/workshops/call-for-2025-project-proposals/>

Since the participation of ECT* in EURO-LABS, a field has been introduced in which the organizers express an opinion on the adherence of the project topics to the scientific aims of EURO-LABS.

A group leader is then identified for each single project, who is normally the main organizer, provided he or she meets the requirements. The Scientific Board verifies the project and has the right - within the planned economic availability - to reject it, as well as to add projects not reported as eligible.

To be eligible to benefit from access to the infrastructure under the contract, both the user group leader and the majority of the users must work in a country other than the country where the installation is located.

The Centre Director, as delegated by the Board, coordinates together with the group leaders the allocation of funding on each selected participant, according to the established rules also described in the information for organizers, published on the institutional website:

<https://www.ectstar.eu/guidelines-for-organizers/>