

MEETING ON PUBLIC AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE
(Orsay, November 26-27, 1999)

Present: S. Aberg, N. Auerbach, Chr. Bargholtz, M. Bex, G. Bonomi, F. Close, J. Deutsch, L. Dobrzynski, G. Edelheit, N. Frascaria, V. Frois, B. Frois, S. Gales, F. Ingebretsen, S. Jokic, R. Kalpakchieva, G-E. Koerner, A. Kugler, H. Leeb, R. Lovas, R. Mackintosh, G. Marx, D. McMurrich, G. Medrano, Y. Novikov, A. Pascolini, A. Ramos, R.A. Ricci, A.C. Shotter, S. Thummerer, J.S. Vagen, W. von Oertzen and A. Zenoni

Apologies were received from A. van de Woude

1 General information on PANS, the bridging funds, EU-support and quest for sponsoring

The bridging funds contributed by the agencies and laboratories amounted to about 23.000 Å, about 6000 Å remaining from earlier occasions; they were used to contribute to the book-project (15000 Å), to PANSWEB (5000 Å), to hold a working meeting in Louvain-la-Neuve in preparation of the EU-proposals and to hold this meeting in Orsay.

Four PANS-related proposals were submitted to the EU. PANSWEB has to be resubmitted next year in a slightly modified form. The three others received green light but the contracts are still to be finalised. They are: the production of a booklet on Nuclear Physics for other scientists (80000 Å within the Frontiers of Physics program of Large Installations), three expositions within the 2000 Science and Technology Week (PANSEXPO: 201000 Å in one year) and the organisation of our co-ordination meetings between the three working groups, enlarging them also to new initiatives (PANS: 165000 Å for three years).

Within PANS about 100000 Å will go to the meetings devoted to exchanging good practice and consulting outside experts; about 65000 Å to the working groups and new initiatives. It was proposed to hold two meetings per year: one restricted to the follow-up of the existing groups and the other to a larger audience including the new initiatives, experiences outside of Europe, and the discussion by experts of the social acceptance of our science.

2 The book project

IOP has cancelled its participation. Ray Mackintosh tries to raise interest in our project with the help of a professional (Robin Rees). The fact that IOPP will not participate in the realisation of our project is due to a shift in their internal strategy and by no means to a negative judgement of our book's interest. The assistance the group could negotiate with Robin Rees is even considered as highly beneficial for the project.

We look forward to learn more on the outcome and drafts of the first chapters at our March-meeting.

3 The WEB-project

Two web-pages were shown and discussed: one a NPB/EPS home-page and another the one with our PANS-logo ("UNUS" ?). The site-address will be circulated soon. Further work will be done this

coming year (with the help of some bridging funds) and a more detailed proposal will be submitted to the EU.

4 Exposition

Three expositions will be held November 2000 in Frankfurt (or Berlin), Paris and Milano, 200 m-square each. They will be devoted to "Radioactivity, a facet of Nature". The next PANS meeting will discuss the details of the exhibition. After the year 2000, these exhibitions will be available for traveling through Europe.

5 Booklet on nuclear physics for scientists

This will be a popularisation of the NuPECC-report which addressed mainly experts in the field. It will be written by a communication-specialist who will tour the laboratories and meet the colleagues to discuss their work. A small steering group will oversee the work and the draft will be circulated for comments within PANS.

6 The Particle Physics Outreach program

Frank Close (returning to England) showed the UK-page with illustrations of latest news. He also mentioned the November 2000 science-festival to be held in CERN. He mentioned his new book devoted to symmetries and their breaking: "Lucifer's Legacy" (Oxford U. Press).

7 PANS logo

Monique Bex showed some of the logos. PANS was abandoned, but PAN (Greek god and also "Public and Nucleus" ? - in English...) could be retained with a smiling logo (and/or the usual symbol of a Li-atom ?). A group consisting of M. Bex, S. Gales and J. Vaagen already discussed various solutions in Orsay. Monique Bex will bring now their suggestions to a graphic artist and we shall circulate the outcome. The logo should be common to all our initiatives.

8 Public Awareness and the European Commission

Gregorio Medrano, a former nuclear physicist in charge of our activities at DGXII gave a short description of the Public Awareness initiative, a bottom-up approach which produced 12 Network-proposals (successful 8) and 18 proposals within the Science and Technology Week (7 successful). (PANS is of the first kind, PANSEXPO of the second one). Information, including the topic of the new calls, is available on the web-site: http://www.cordis.lu/improving/src/hp_rpast.htm.

Next year, in addition to the calls on Networks and Science/Technology Week, proposals can be made also on Round-table discussions and electronic (or other) means of communication. As for the book-project its preparation could be object of a request but not its realisation.

G. Medrano spoke also about prizes available (Descartes for confirmed people, Archimedes for students preparing a PhD and Young Scientist contest for young people). The site with the corresponding call is: <http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/src/whats.htm>

9 PANS at Hungarian Highschools

G. Marx gave details of the nuclear physics education in Hungarian high schools and on the corresponding text-book. He distributed also a paper on risk-assessment. Interested colleagues may request these texts at marx@lauder.hu.

10 Nuclear Physics at Highschools, a European wide project?

L. Dobrzynski presented an initiative at Swierk to present nuclear physics in a half-day brainstorming session to advanced highschool students and their teachers. It was considered that this initiative should be encouraged and that PANS should help its realisation on a European-wide scale. Dorothy McMurrich from Edinburgh and Sidney Gales will help. They will contact Daniel Guerreau for help at GANIL where such initiatives are also forthcoming. Ludwik drafted a proposal he will be glad to send all interested colleagues (Ludwik.Dobrzynski@fuw.edu.pl)

11 Next meeting

The first meeting of year 2000 (devoted to the three working groups and in particular to the preparation of PANSEXPO and the monitoring of the book-project) is planned to take place in Venice March 17-18 and the second one during the European Science and Technology week in November at one of its three sites. An invitation to Hungary is accepted for year 2001.

12 The meeting ended with a guided tour and a reception at the La Villette Science Museum, arranged by Sidney Gales to whom all the participants expressed their gratefulness for this unique event.