

ACCU report - CHIPP plenary meeting (16th June 2023)

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This report covers the following ACCU meetings:

- 136th ACCU meeting, 7th June 2022, <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1157563/>
- 137th, ACCU meeting, 6th September 2022, <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1185098/>
- 138th, ACCU meeting, 6th December 2022, <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1218055/>
- 139th, ACCU meeting, 14th March 2023, <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1245363/>

Starting with general news about CERN, one of the major achievements in 2022 for the accelerators and experiments was the start of the LHC Run 3 in June 2022 after more than three years of upgrade and maintenance work. During the first year of data taking, the total integrated luminosity delivered to ATLAS and CMS was $\sim 40 \text{ fb}^{-1}$, $\sim 1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ to LHCb and $\sim 0.03 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ to ALICE. All four main experiments operated well after the various upgrades undertaken in LS2. Proton-proton collisions resumed by the end of April 2023. The antiproton physics run has been delayed until end of June due to a broken quadrupole magnet in the injection region of the Antiproton Decelerator (AD) machine.

The difficult economic context has also impacted CERN. The high inflation is typically not covered by the indexation of the Member and Associated Member States contributions, which is limited to 2%. In terms of electricity bill, CERN is subject to the ARENH (*Accès Régulé à l'Électricité Nucléaire Historique*) scheme until 2025, where 70% of the electricity bought by CERN has a capped price. Discussions with the European Commission are on-going to set up a similar scheme for large infrastructures after 2026 to avoid CERN being subject to market prices due to the end of regulated tariffs. Several measures have already been decided to mitigate the impact of inflation and electricity costs such as the extension of the 2022-2023 YETS (Year-End Technical Stop) by two weeks and the reduction of the LHC operation time by 20% in 2023. Other measures for energy savings included the reduction of gas consumption (e.g. by delaying the start of heating in buildings during fall-winter, decreasing the temperature by 1°C) and other general measures (e.g. light bulb replacements, shutting down CERN public light, implementing sleeping modes for the light in meeting rooms, etc.). However these have a small impact in the overall budget, as the accelerators and technical equipment still represent $\sim 95\%$ of CERN's energy consumption.

Concerning the life on-site and the various services from the SCE (Site and Civil Engineering) department:

- All Covid-19 measures were lifted at CERN on February 2023. Some good practices such as ventilation protocols and regular disinfection are maintained, hand sanitizers are available at various access points.

- [Housing](#)
 - The occupation level went back to pre-Covid levels.
 - The 12 fully furnished and equipped [apartments](#) (located in Meyrin and Grand-Saconnex), subleased by CERN and available for rental, are in general well appreciated by the users. Renovation projects are currently on-going on various of these apartments.
 - Bldg. 39 was renovated and also has a new infant feeding room.
 - Schuman Residence has now fiber optic internet access.
 - The transfer of the CERN private market service to the CERN marketplace was made during summer 2022. Main objectives of the migration were to provide a single point of access to landlords and tenants, to ease management and maintenance of the application and to prevent CERN from liability issues.

- [Catering](#)
 - Restaurant 1 was re-opened on March 20, 2023 after five months of renovation works. The new opening hours are 6:00 to 22:00, patio and extension is open 24/7. A [new counting system](#) has been installed in all three restaurants to better inform clients of the restaurant occupancy.
 - The [click and collect](#) has been maintained
 - The contract for the vending machine management by Selecta on the French side has been renewed since January 1, 2023. Some improvements concern the quality of the food and the connectivity of the machines, now accepting both EU and CHF coins. 14 new machines have been installed to replace older models.

- [Mobility](#)
 - Shuttles 1, 2 and 5 are running to normal usage. Shuttle 4 (airport) remains suspended due to high costs, and the use of public transport (tram) is still recommended. Bus line 66 now has a stop at the entrance of the Preveessin site with one terminus being at Geneva airport (though this is supposed to be an alternative solution, it is presumably long to get to the airport from the Meyrin site that way).
 - The new car sharing management system seems to be working well. It has been used by 1092 users since June 2022 with a 100% efficiency in terms of car pick up. 80% of the cars were used between 15 minutes and 8.5 hours. For needs of more than 12 hours users are invited to make use of short terms rental offers.

- The bike fleet has currently 486 bikes. E-bikes, scooters and the CERN bikes service is back since 6th March 2023. The access conditions are a valid CERN account and e-learning module “Road Traffic – Bike Riding”, not more than 2h per trip, no bookings in advance, and outside trips only between Meyrin and Preveessin site.
 - Parking space for motorcycles will be increased from 79 to 198 places, works started in spring 2023. Only 10 car parking places will be suppressed.
- Shipping and customs
- From 1st March 2023 all exportation will have to follow the new international customs regulation ICS2 (Import Control System). A detailed information is to be provided on the pro-forma invoice (exact information, customs code, EORI number). Delays will have to be expected due to the difficulty to identify correct codes to be entered. Users are reminded the erroneous codes can lead to different taxes to be paid by the recipient.
 - Shipping to and from Ukraine are still suspended, mainly due to the lack of transport providers.
- [Site Security & Access](#)
- Gates A and C do not have guards present at all times anymore since June 1st, 2022. Access to these gates is limited to correctly registered vehicles.
 - Retirees not having been Member of Personnel (MoP) have sometimes difficulties to get a badge for accessing CERN. This category of retirees actually can fill out a retired users form available at the users office, which needs to be signed by a guarantor at CERN and the head of the EP department.
- [Users office](#)
- A home institution declaration (HID) is not required anymore if the annual average presence is modified between 55% and 100%. It has also been clarified that a HID is not necessary every six months except for contractual changes (see [contract amendments](#)).
- Misc
- The Science Gateway will be inaugurated in October 2023. It consists of various building such as restaurant, auditorium (900 seats, dividable into smaller halls), exhibitions, shop, reception, and labs, and is building a full campus with the Globe and IdeaSquare. Three permanent exhibitions will be installed. All installations have been designed considering the accessibility to disabled individuals. A booking app for individual visitors is under preparation, showing freely accessible and bookable activities. The Science Gateway will be open from Tuesday to Sunday (no tours for groups and tours organized by MoP on Sunday). More details about the Science Gateway and the current offer to visitors can be found [here](#).
 - The cultural kiosk in bldg. 500 was opened in September 2022. It provides event and cinema tickets as well as other information concerning activities in the Geneva area.

Concerning IT, the new organisational structure and strategic direction of CERN's IT department was presented (see [here](#) for more details). The new structure, consisting of three groups (*Strategy and Executive Governance*, *Technical Delivery* and *Resource Management*), aims at strengthening the relationship with the user community as one of its primary objectives. In the area of access to licensed software, usage eligibility has been reviewed to tackle challenges such as the lack of clarity in access rights, the shift from campus to named licenses, costs, the risk of dependency on external providers and complex categories of software. The user base has been re-structured in 4 categories: *i*) MPAs and MPEs, *ii*) remote participants, *iii*) retirees and *iv*) contractors and externals. All categories will have an associated SSO (Single Sign-On) computing account, which will define the access level to the different computing resources. In order to control license costs, reduce resource usage and security issues, an in-depth study is going-on to review the use of IT resources and to better identify the actual needs of different user categories. In terms of computing security, several protective measures have been implemented, such as a new outer perimeter firewall, awareness campaign with simulated phishing mails or the adoption of 2-factor authentication for critical accounts (either using a "Yubikey" USB dongle or a smart-phone-based authenticator app).

Finally, the situation of Ukrainian users is being regularly reported at the ACCU meetings by Tetiana Hryn'ova (ACCU representative for Ukraine). As of March 2023, there are currently 127 Ukrainian users at CERN, (about 20 more than in 2022). Despite the difficult conditions, Ukrainian scientists continue to work and fulfil their deliverables for CERN experiments. Some labs had to be moved to safer places though. The publication strategy concerning the acknowledgement of contributions from Russian and Belarusian institutes was widely discussed in the four large LHC experiments during 2022. During that time, publications were suspended. Following a single vote procedure described [in this document](#), a common solution for all experiments (so-called proposal "C") was finally adopted in February 2023, that allowed to resume scientific publications. The implementation of the selected proposal remains temporary and will be revisited before the end of 2024, in light of the expiration of the current International Cooperation Agreements between CERN and Belarus, the Russian Federation, and JINR. Several resources related to the support of Ukraine can be found at the end of this report, [here](#).

LINKS OF INTEREST

- **ACCU** (Advisory Committee of CERN Users)
 - Web site: <https://accu.web.cern.ch/>
 - Meetings in indico: <https://indico.cern.ch/category/1058/>

- **Users' Office**
 - Web site: <http://usersoffice.web.cern.ch/>
 - Forms: <https://usersoffice.web.cern.ch/forms-0>

- CERN **IT** (Information technology)
 - Web site: <https://information-technology.web.cern.ch/>

- CERN **SCE** (Site and Civil Engineering)
 - Web site: <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/>
 - Housing and hotel reservations: <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/campus-life/housing>
 - Catering: <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/campus-life/catering>
 - Mobility (car sharing, bikes, rentals, etc): <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/campus-life/mobility>
 - Security and access: <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/security/access>
 - Locks and keys: <https://sce-dep.web.cern.ch/security/locks-and-keys>
 - CERN maps: <https://maps.cern.ch/>

- **Learning and development**
 - Web site: [Lerning hub](#)
 - [E-platforms and apps](#)

- **Ukraine**
 - CERN HR support web page: <https://hr.web.cern.ch/Support-Ukraine>
 - List of resources: [CERN-HR-Note-2022-008](#)
 - Mattermost channel: <https://mattermost.web.cern.ch/ukrainianscern/channels/town-square>

NB: if you'd like to have listed additional links or spot any broken link do not hesitate to contact me, Sergio.Gonzalez@unige.ch.