



European Strategy for Nuclear Physics



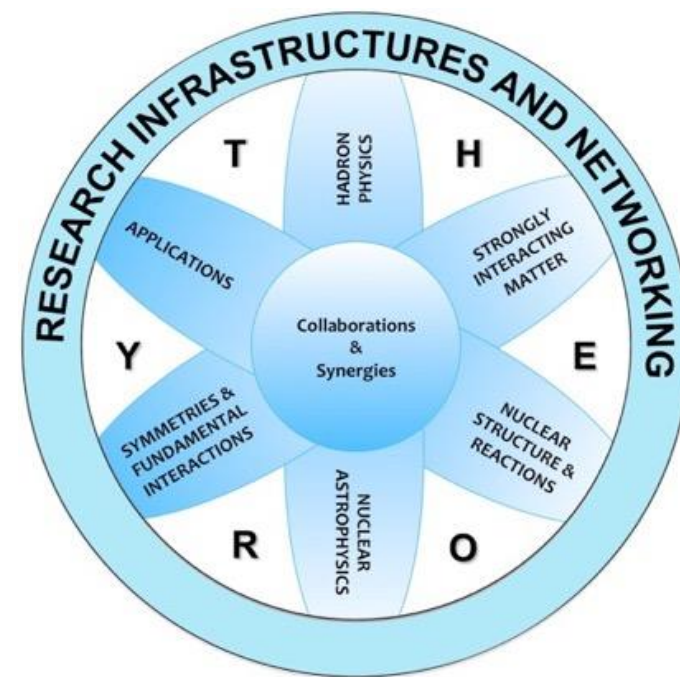
Eberhard Widmann

NuPECC Chair

www.nupecc.org

Stefan Meyer Institute, Vienna

Slides contributed by Marek Lewitowicz



GSI/FAIR Scientific Colloquium 6 May 2025



Content

- Overview
- Process to create the NuPECC Long Range Plan
- Physics topics and recommendations
- Other topics of importance to Nuclear Physics
- Recommendations for facilities
- Implementation and next steps



Nuclear Physics European Collaboration Committee (**NuPECC**)
Is the European Expert Board for Nuclear Physics
hosted by the European Science Foundation

Representing
> 5000 scientists

Composition:

- 35 representatives from 23 countries (new: Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine), 3 ESFRI NP Infrastructures & ECT*
 - 4 associated members
 - CERN
 - Israel
 - iThemba Labs
 - Nishina Center
- 10 observers: ALAFNA, ANPhA, APPEC, CINP, ECFA, ESF, EPS-NPD, EPS-HEPPD, IAEA, NSAC

3 regular Committee meetings/y

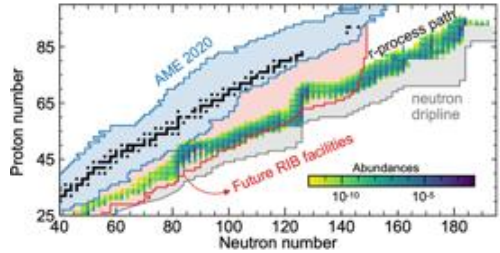
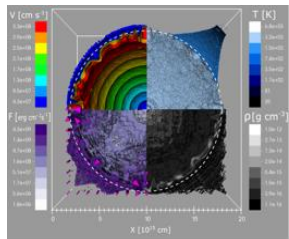
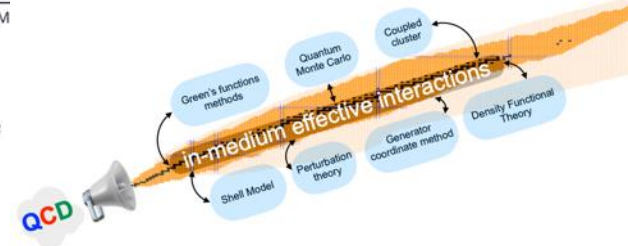
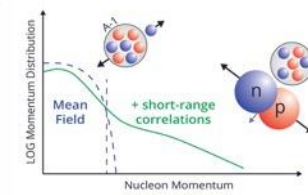
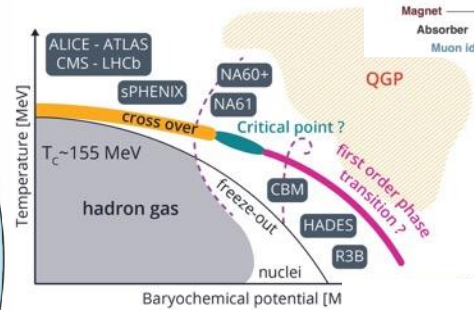
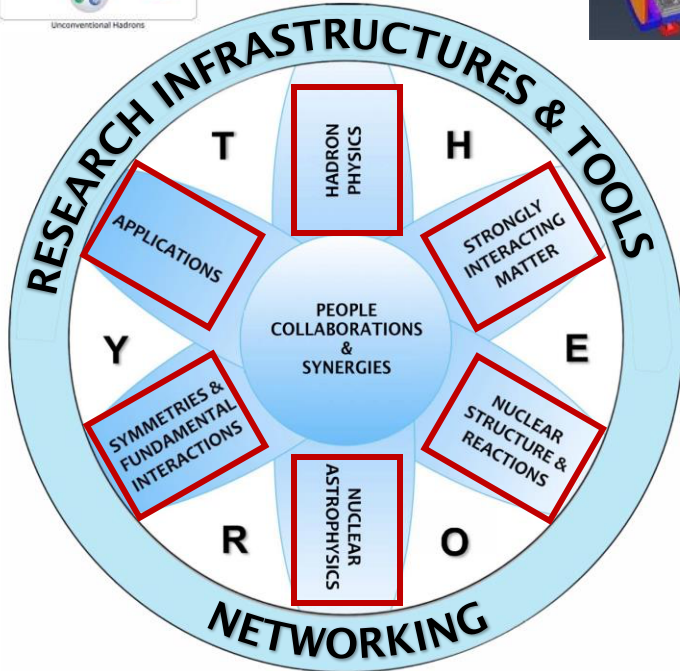
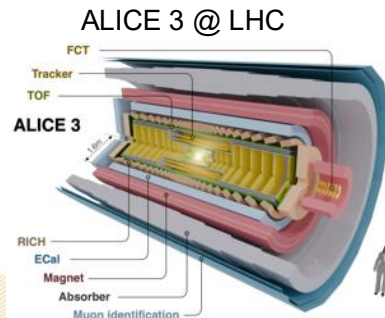
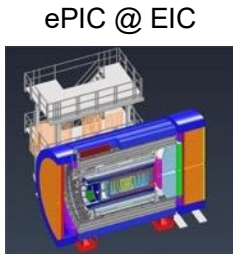
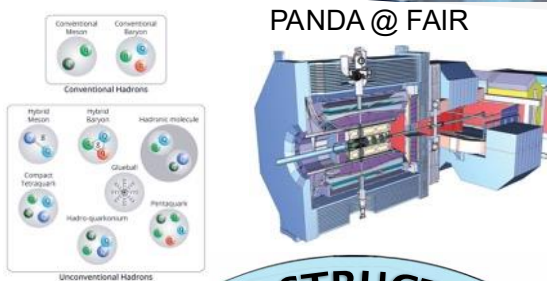
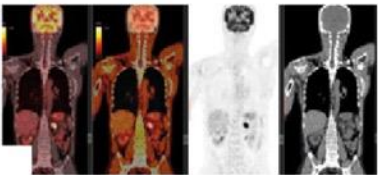
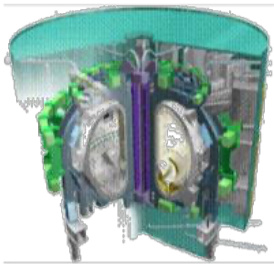


36 Years of NuPECC activities

<https://nupecc.org>

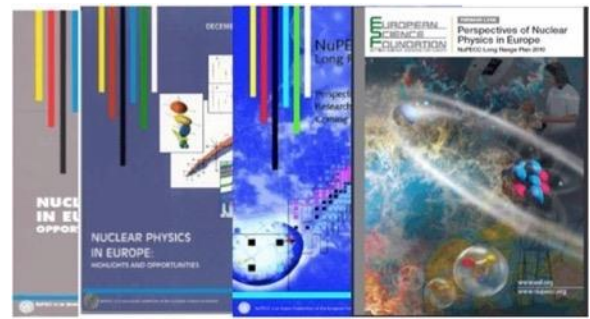


Nuclear Physics in Europe



Towards NuPECC Long Range Plan 2024

1991 1997 2004 2010



NuPECC LRP 2017

<https://www.nupecc.org/lrp2016/Documents/lrp2017.pdf>

- The LRP identifies opportunities and priorities for nuclear science in Europe
- The LRP provides national funding agencies, European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures and the European Commission with a framework for coordinated advances in nuclear science in Europe



https://www.nupecc.org/2017_LRP_Assessment_of_Implementation_final.pdf

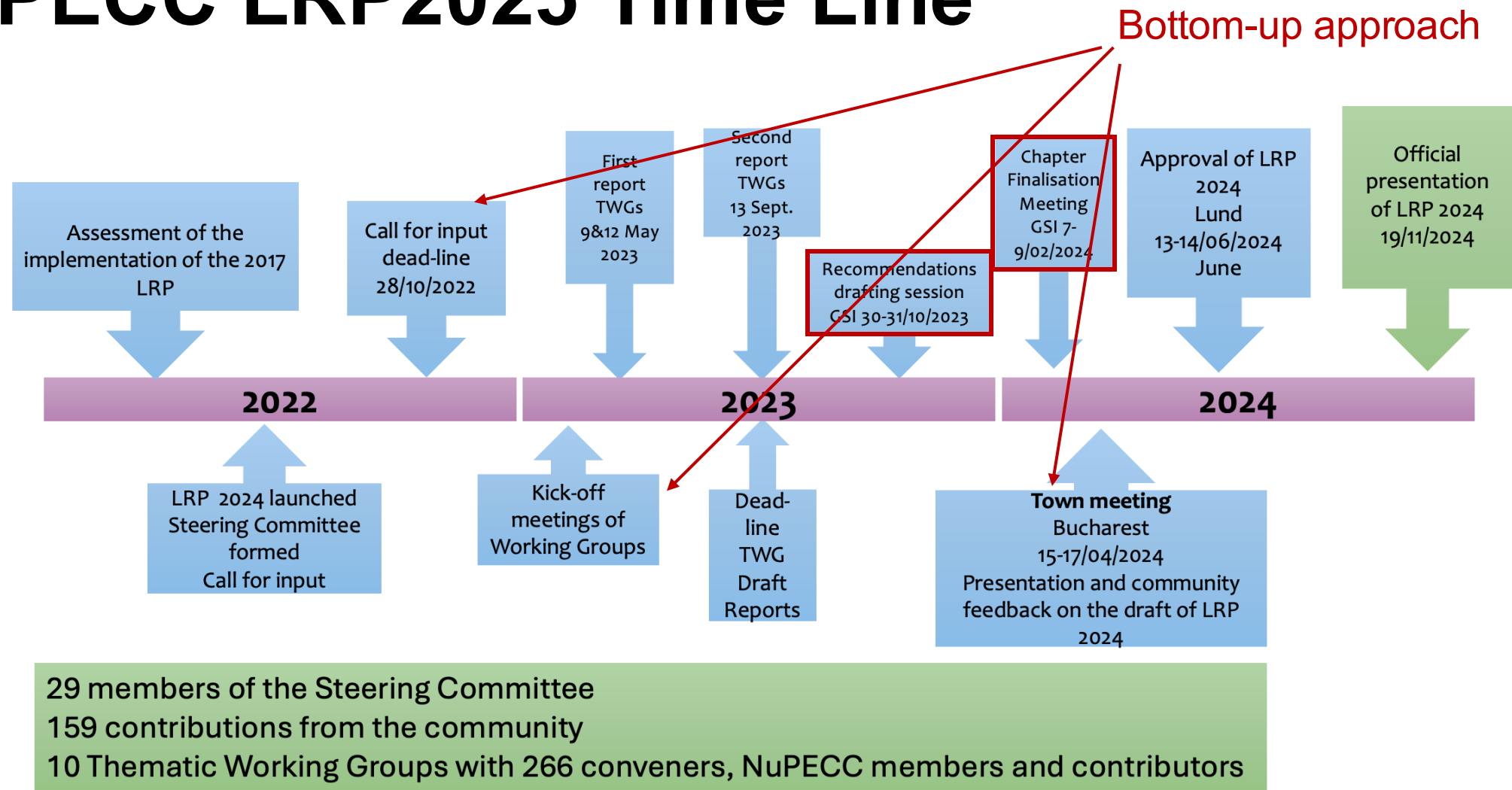


Launched in May 2022 in Madrid



NuPECC LRP 2024
[arXiv:2503.15575](https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.15575)

NuPECC LRP2025 Time Line



NuPECC Long Range Plan 2024



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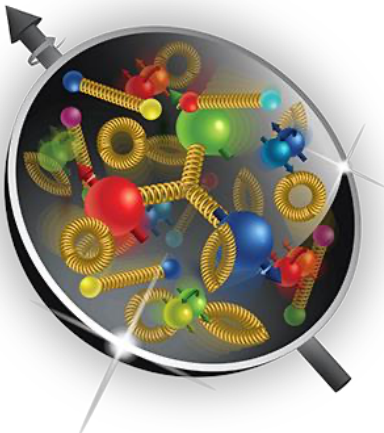
Physics topics ad recommendations

Hadron Physics

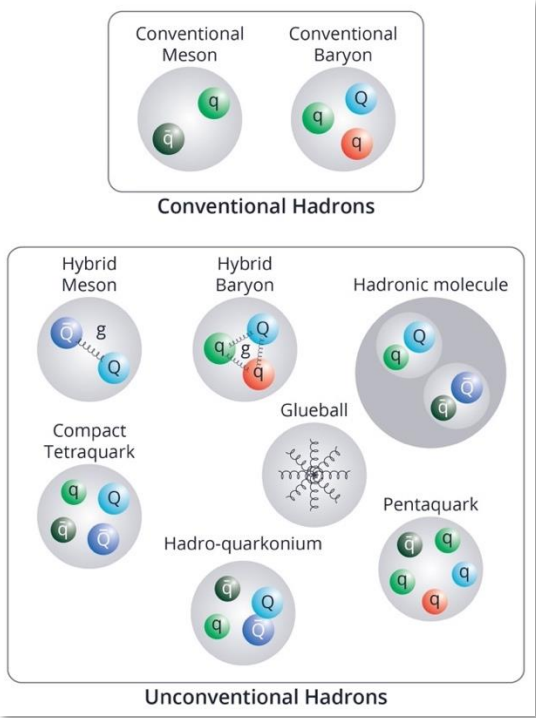
Key Questions & Goals

The goal of hadron physics is to understand the rich and complex features of the strong interaction. How does the major part of the visible mass of the universe emerge from the almost massless quarks? Can massless gluons form massive, exotic matter? What is the role of strong interactions in stellar objects, and in precision tests of the Standard Model?

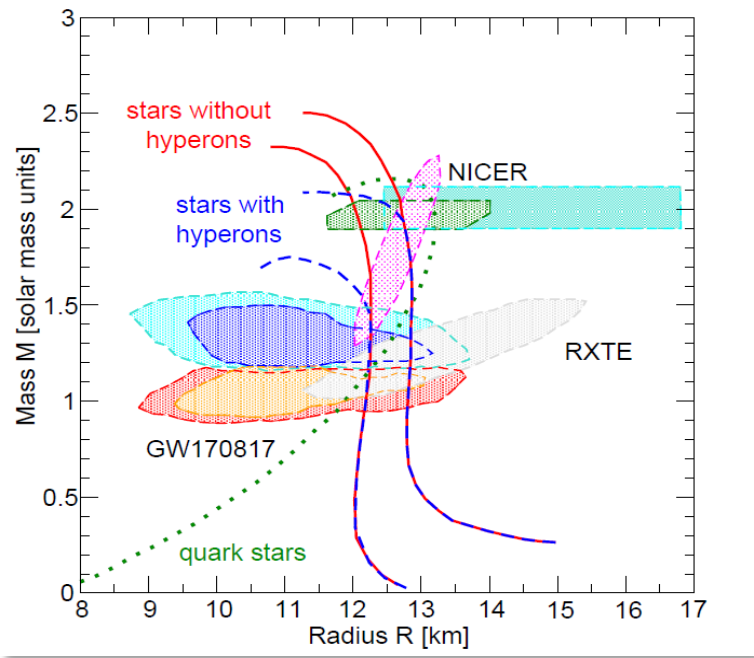
Hadron Structure Quarks and Gluons



Credit: <https://www.bnl.gov/eic/goals.php>



Valence content of conventional and exotic hadrons



The blobs represent the mass and radius constraints from the gravitational wave detectors LIGO and Virgo, as well as NASA's Neutron star Interior Explorer (NICER), while the dashed and solid lines represent the predictions obtained with various EoS models, with and without hyperons. Picture credit I. Vidana (Universita di Catania).



Hadron Physics

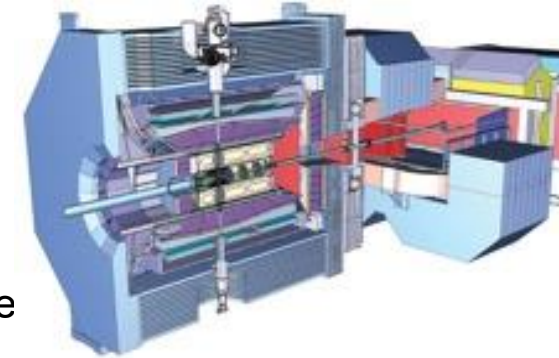
Recommendations (experiments)

Support of existing facilities and experiments:

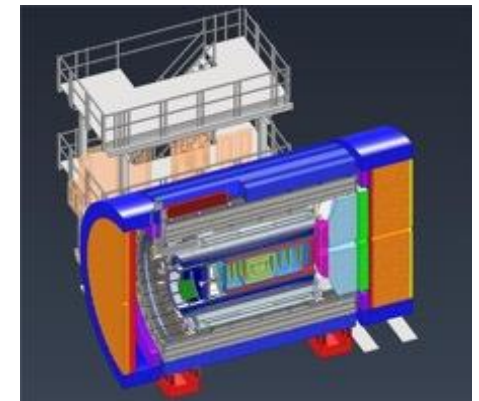
- **AMBER** at CERN
- **ELSA** in Bonn, **HADES** at GSI, **MAMI** and **MESA** in Mainz, Germany
- **Jefferson Laboratory** in Newport News, USA

Furthermore, we recommend the support of ongoing hadron physics activities at the multi-purpose facilities Belle II, BESIII and those at the LHC.

PANDA @ FAIR



ePIC @ EIC



Future flagship facilities and experiments:

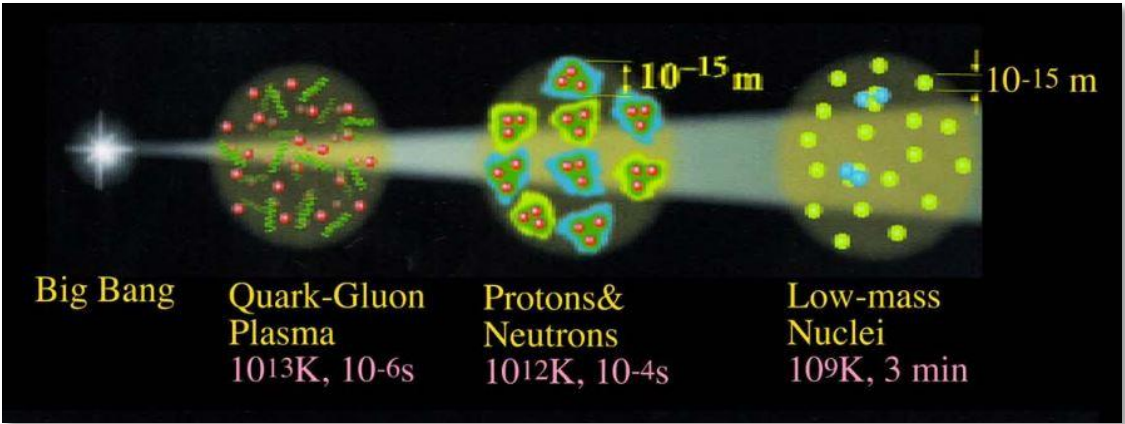
- We recommend the expedited realisation of the antiproton experiment PANDA, and the support of European groups to contribute to the electron-ion experiment ePIC. By virtue of their different beam species and energy regimes, PANDA and ePIC will explore complementary physics aspects.

Strongly Interacting Matter at Extreme Conditions

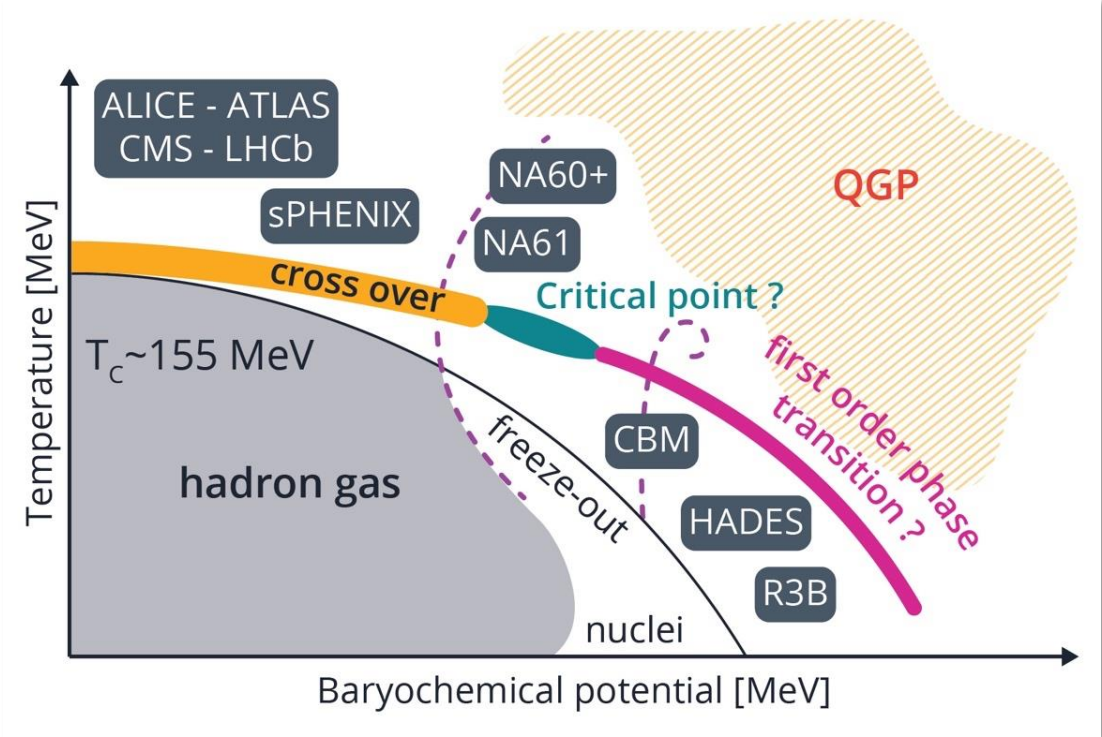
Key Questions & Goals

What are the properties of the quark-gluon plasma, which is the qualitatively novel state of nuclear matter at extreme conditions of temperature and density?

Objectives: Discover in microscopic detail the material properties of the Quark Gluon Plasma at the highest temperature reached at the LHC at CERN and find the expected onset of the first-order phase transition at finite baryon density at FAIR in Darmstadt.



Mahnaz Q. Haseeb, *Introduction to Quark Gluon Plasma*, 2009

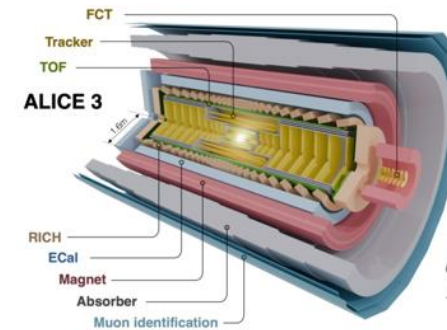


Strongly Interacting Matter at Extreme Conditions

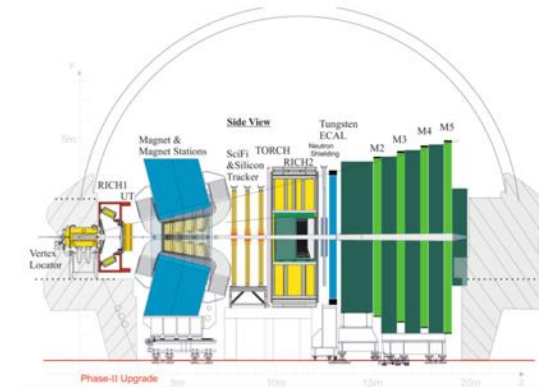
Recommendations (experiments)

- **Future flagship facilities and experiments**
 - **ALICE 3** at **CERN**
 - **SIS-100** at **FAIR** and the realization of the **CBM** experiment
 - **CERN LHC** after 2035 (Run 5 and 6), the **LHCb Upgrade2** and the fixed-target setup **NA60+** detector at the **SPS**
- **Support of existing facilities and experiments**
 - Maximise scientific output from the significant investment in current detector upgrades at the **LHC**
 - **HADES** and **R3B** at **SIS-18/SIS-100**, should receive full support.
 - The exploitation of **NA61** at **SPS** should receive full support

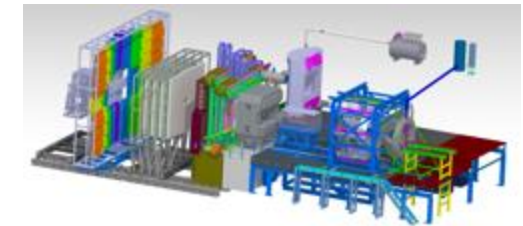
ALICE 3 @ LHC



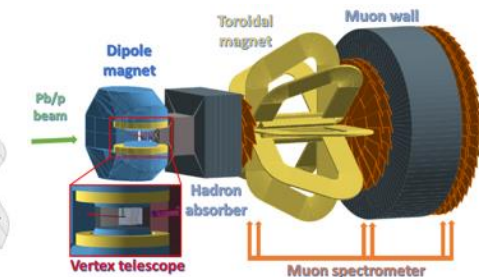
LHCb Upgrade II



CBM @ FAIR



NA60+



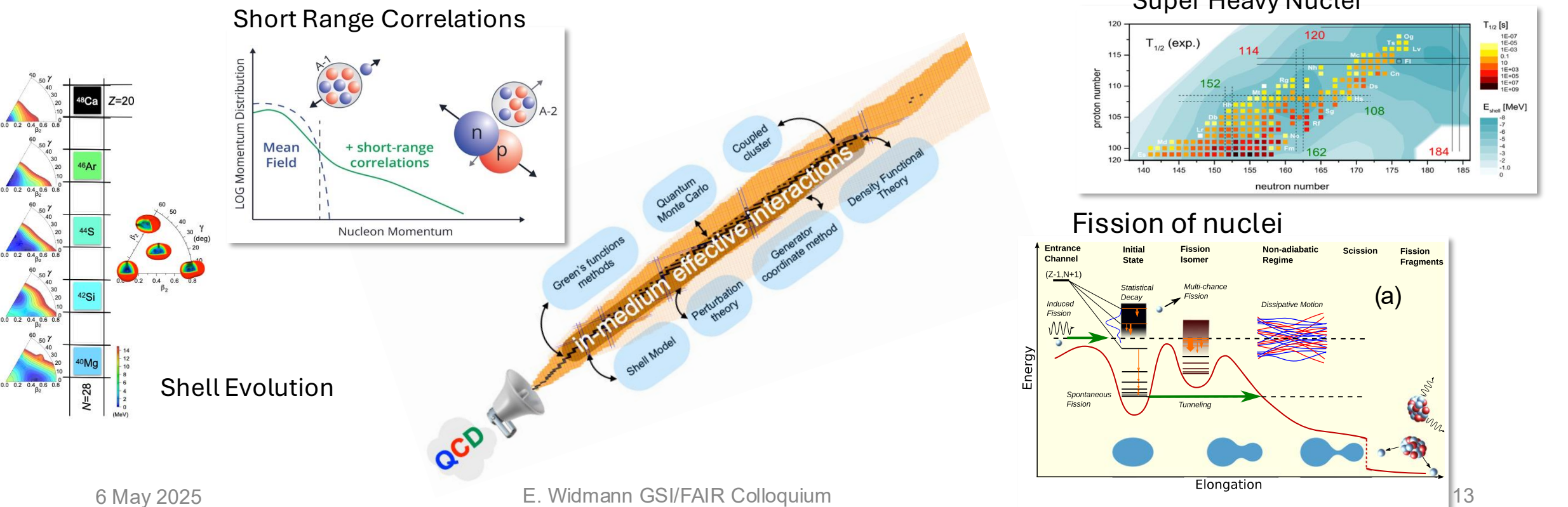
Credit: Framework TDR for the LHCb Upgrade II
CERN-LHCC-2021-012 ; LHCb-TDR-023

Credit: <https://na60plus.ca.infn.it>

Nuclear Structure and Reaction Dynamics

Key Questions & Goals

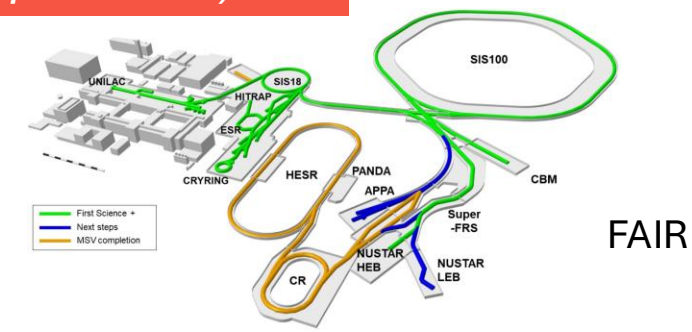
The main goals of Nuclear Structure and Reaction Dynamics in the next decade will be to answer the following questions: How do nuclei and nuclear matter emerge from the underlying fundamental interactions? What is the limit of nuclear existence and which phenomena arise from open quantum systems? How do nuclear shells evolve across the nuclear landscape, what kind of shapes can nuclei take, and what is the role of nuclear correlations? What are the mechanisms behind nuclear reactions and nuclear fission?



Nuclear Structure and Reaction Dynamics

Recommendations (experiments)

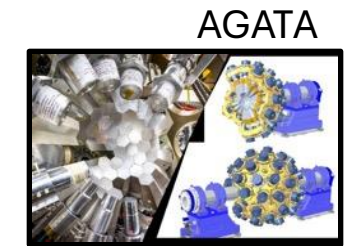
- Support of existing facilities and experiments
 - To ensure complementarity in experimental programs, it is essential to strongly support *large- and small-scale facilities* which guarantee access to the whole community
 - The coordinated effort amongst the ISOL facilities in Europe ... will secure the leading position of Europe
 - The full completion of the European flagship gamma spectrometer AGATA-4p (with ancillaries) is mandatory
- Future flagship facilities and experiments
 - FAIR** facility (with Low-Energy-Branch), **SPIRAL2**, **SPES**, **ELI-NP**, **ISOL@MYRRHA**, and **ISOLDE** upgrades
 - Future rings at **FAIR** and **HIE-ISOLDE**



GANIL/SPIRAL2 France

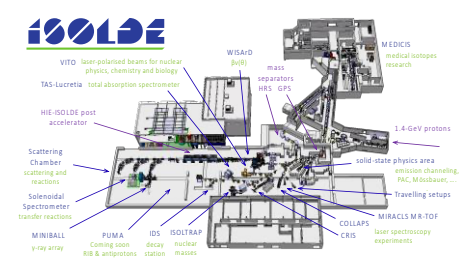


SPES/LNL Italy

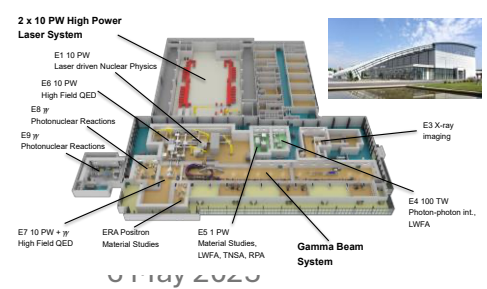


AGATA

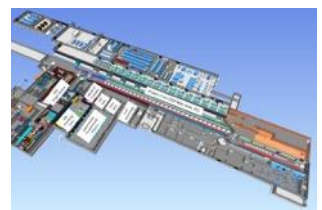
ISOLDE CERN



ELI – NP Romania



ISOL@MYRRHA Belgium



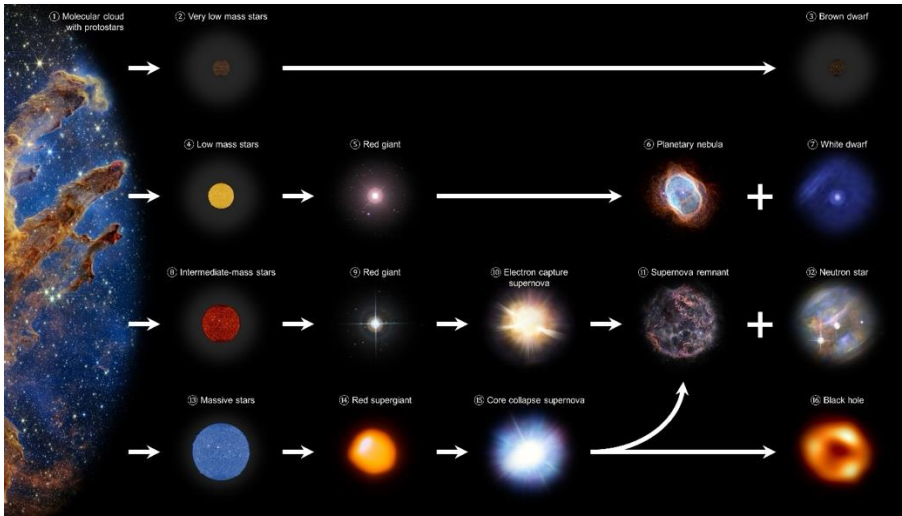
Nuclear Astrophysics

Key Questions & Goals

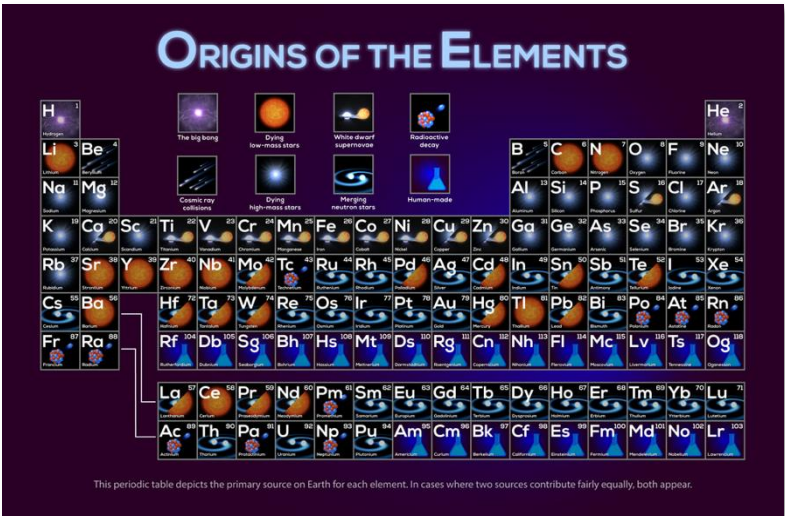
Nuclear astrophysics is the study of nuclear processes in astrophysical objects such as stars, covering the wide range of physical scenarios found in space. The key research questions are: How can we better understand the synthesis of heavy elements and the chemical evolution of the visible universe? What is the nature of matter in the extreme conditions of compact astrophysical objects such as mergers or pulsars?

Gravitational wave telescopes have opened a new window to astrophysics. These multi-messenger studies need a nuclear physics foundation (ex. equation of state of nucl. matter)

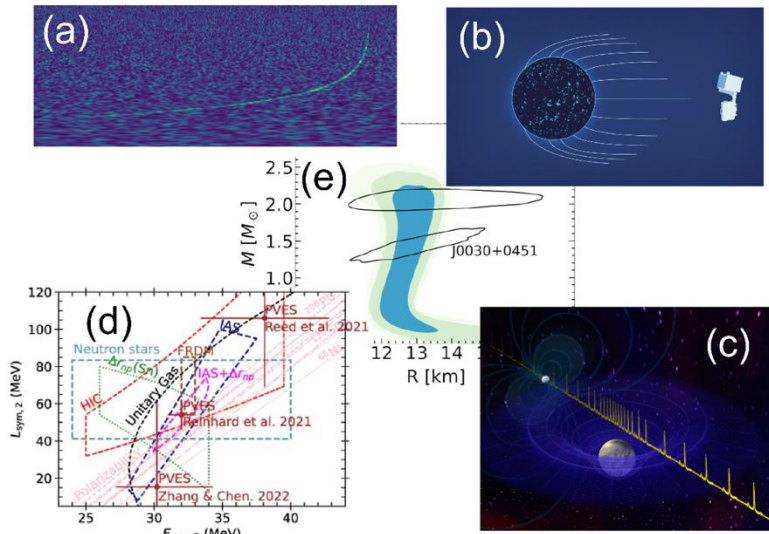
Stellar evolution for low-, intermediate - mass and massive stars



Origin of the Elements



Neutron stars and Equation of State



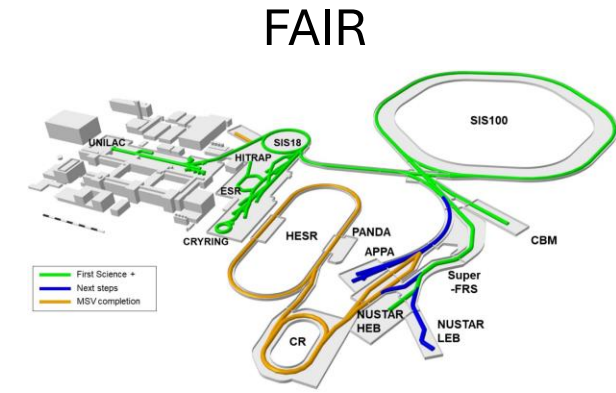
(See LRP2024 for details)



Nuclear Astrophysics

Recommendations (experiments)

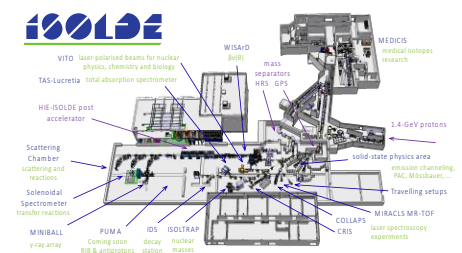
- We recommend to strengthen nuclear astrophysics networks in Europe (e.g. ChETEC-INFRA) and to make them sustainable.
- Support of existing facilities and experiments
 - Small-scale facilities are key for nuclear astrophysics research and should be supported
 - European underground laboratories (**LNGS Bellotti** Ion Beam Facility and **Felsenkeller**) are essential
 - CRYRING and ESR storage rings at FAIR, which open important new physics cases, and n_TOF at CERN should be fully exploited
- **Future flagship facilities and experiments**
 - We strongly recommend the completion of Radioactive Beam Facilities in Europe, in particular the Super-FRS at FAIR, including the Low-Energy-Branch, the upgrade of ISOLDE, and SPIRAL2
 - A large (> 10 MV) **Atomic Mass Spectrometry** system is currently missing in Europe



GANIL/SPIRAL2 France



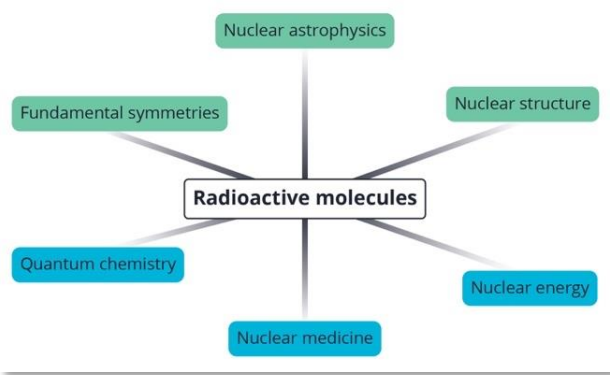
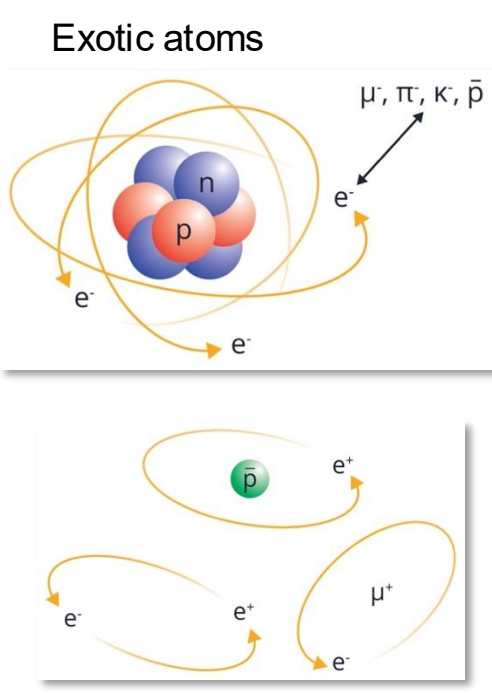
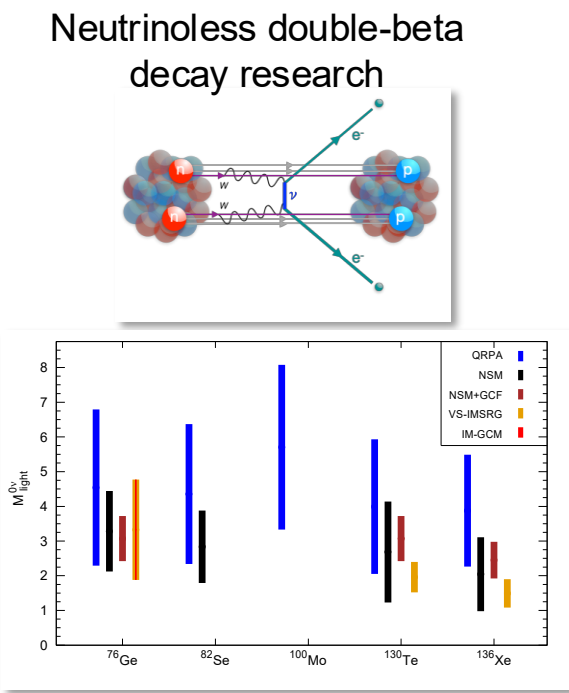
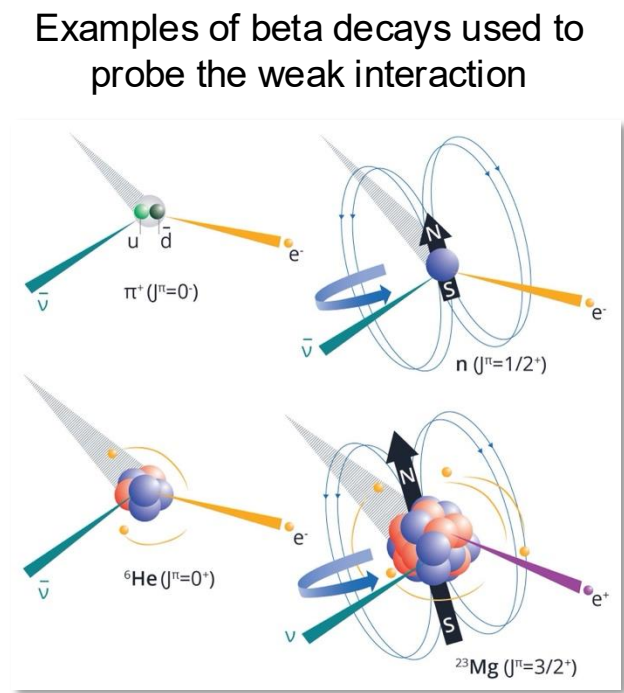
ISOLDE CERN



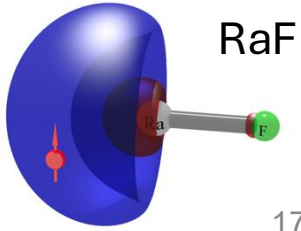
Symmetries and Fundamental Interactions

Key Questions & Goals

Symmetries, referred to as the invariance of the laws of physics under a given transformation, play a fundamental role in physics. They can be studied by powerful low-energy probes. As such, precision measurements are complementary to collider searches for new physics. Pioneering techniques are under development to produce, manipulate, cool and trap a diverse range of particles, including radioactive nuclei, neutrons, antiprotons, pions, muons, exotic atoms, and highly charged ions.



Schematic representation of the radium monofluoride (RaF) molecule



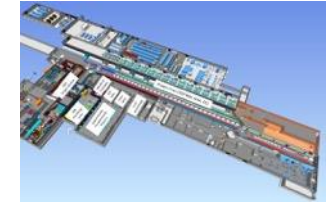


Symmetries and Fundamental Interactions

Recommendations (experiments)

- Support of existing facilities and experiments
 - The multidisciplinary research infrastructures ILL, FRM-II and PSI provide unique opportunities. Operation of ILL should be ensured beyond 2033.
 - Continued support for **ESR**, **CRYRING** and **HITRAP** at GSI/FAIR, and high-energy **EBITs** in other labs
 - The AD/ELENA physics program at CERN should be strongly supported
 - Customised instrumentation and beam time availability should be guaranteed for fundamental tests at RIB facilities like ISOLDE, GANIL-SPIRAL2, and JYFL-ACCLAB/IGISOL
 - Multiple and **complementary experimental searches** for neutrino-less double beta decay have to be encouraged as they can reach into the inverted hierarchy in the next decade.
- **Future flagship facilities and experiments**
 - Specialization of upcoming Radioactive Ion Beam facilities such as **ISOL@MYRRHA** and **DESIR at GANIL-SPIRAL2** should be regarded as an opportunity not to be missed
 - At **ESS**, a fundamental neutron physics beamline should be installed
 - The realisation of future CR and HESR at FAIR should be vigorously pursued

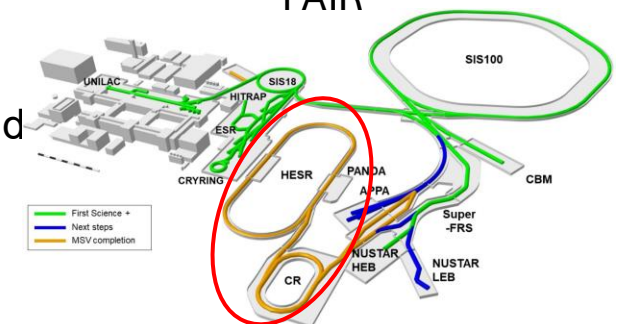
ISOL@MYRRHA Belgium



GANIL/SPIRAL2 France



FAIR





Other topics of importance to Nuclear Physics

Applications and Societal Benefits

Key questions & Goals

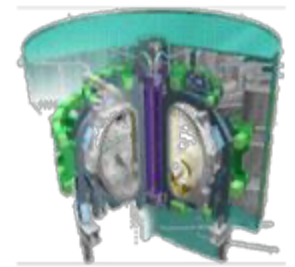
How might nuclear physics strengthen its role in society's sustainable development?

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call to action for all governments across the globe, but also a call for all research communities to contribute. The nuclear science community contributes to all SDGs but more specifically, it directly addresses some of these goals (#3 Good health and well-being, #7 Affordable and clean energy, #9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure, #13 Climate action) or indirectly (#4 quality education, #5 gender equality, #10 reduced inequalities) through innovative and collaborative approaches. Nuclear science must critically assess where it can contribute to them and engage fully in such opportunities.

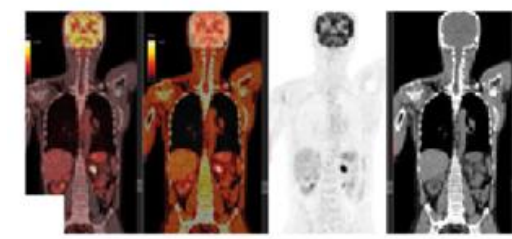
Recommendations

- Improving nuclear data, including both the measurement and the evaluation of nuclear data is needed to support research in the fields of energy, health, space, and material science.
- **Capacity building:** in radiochemistry and radiobiology maintaining nuclear application competencies, developing the landscape of smaller-scale facilities, in coordination with the large-scale facilities.
- New generations of nuclear energy sources and the management of nuclear waste through partition and transmutation, depend on sustained technological developments in the present facilities, as well as the completion of **MYRRHA** and **IFMIF-DONES**.
- Upscaling the production capacity of novel medical radionuclides: **MEDICIS** separator at CERN, the expansion of the EU **PRISMAP** project, and the completion **ISOLPHARM** at SPES, **ISOL@MYRRHA**, **IMPACT-TATTOOS** at PSI, and **SMILES** at Subatech
- Completion of the first galactic cosmic ray simulator in Europe at GSI/FAIR
- The installation of a high-energy **AMS** in Europe (>10 MV) is recommended.
- Isotope-sensitive techniques in environmental, heritage, and material science: sustained operation of research reactors

At nuclear clock



ITER



A PET-CT scan of the human body.



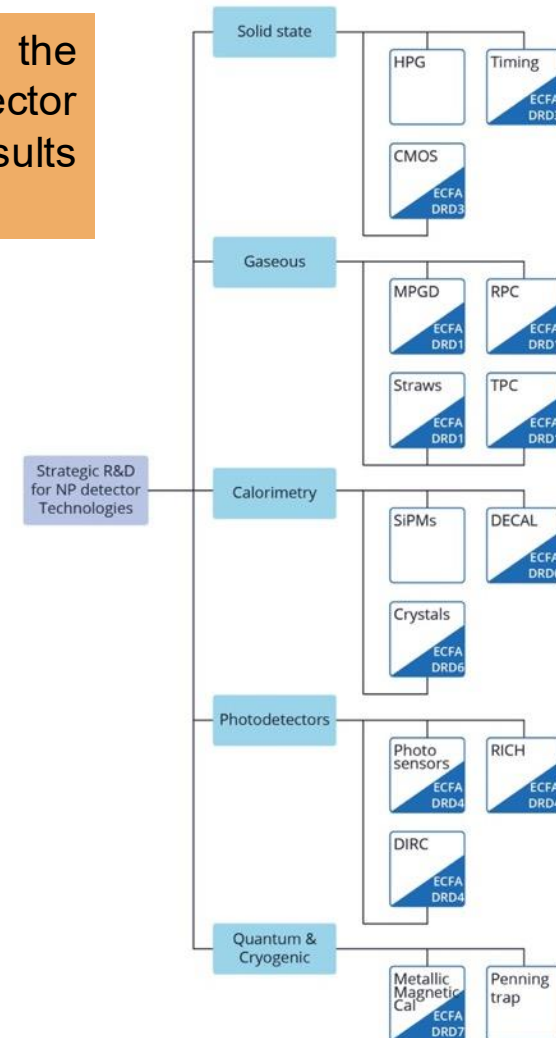
Nuclear Physics Tools - Detectors and experimental techniques

Key Questions & Goals

Advancement in the understanding of fundamental physics is intimately related to progress in the development of tools for experimental and theoretical investigations. These tools are used for detector R&D, detector operation, data acquisition and analysis, theoretical interpretation of experimental results and genuine theoretical developments.

Recommendations

- Elaboration of a roadmap for detector R&D dedicated to the specific needs of low-energy nuclear physics and applications in radiation monitoring and heritage science must be supported.
- Strengthening of the collaborative effort in developing cutting-edge detector technology for identified applications in accelerator experiments with respective activities in high-energy particle physics and other adjacent research fields.
- Enhance precision and efficiency in high-resolution laser spectroscopy and mass spectrometry, to study the structure of rare isotopes and test fundamental symmetries.
- Establish infrastructures to ensure the provision of stable and radioactive targets, such as a dedicated mass separator for providing radioactive samples and targets – foreseen to be built at PSI
- Secure a strategic supply of stable enriched isotopes for fundamental research and applications as is the case for the installation of a European Electro-Magnetic Ion Separation facility, providing material of the highest enrichment in rare stable isotopes.
- To develop novel efficient neutron detectors to replace those based on ^3He .





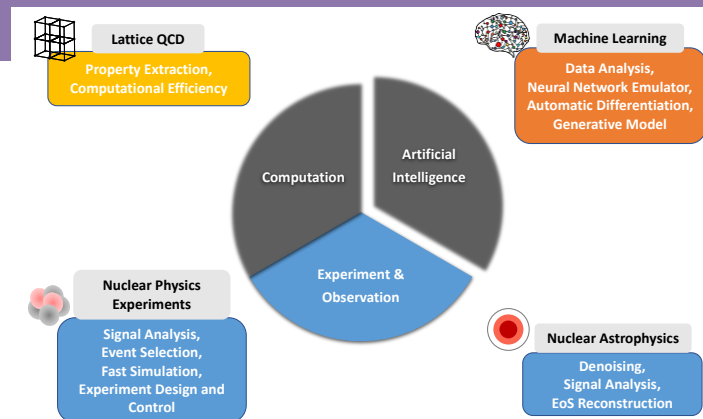
Nuclear Physics Tools – Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Quantum Computing

Key Questions & Goals

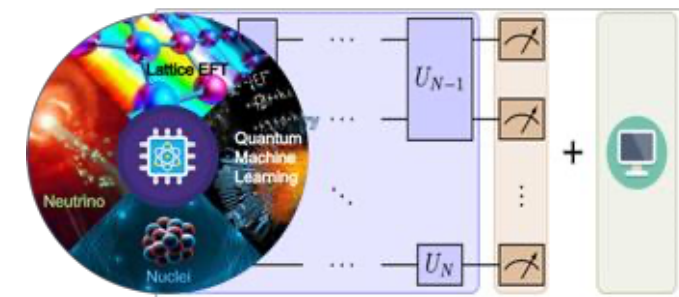
The tremendous progress in the field of nuclear physics has led to the pressing need for appropriate numerical tools aimed at addressing the most relevant experimental, theoretical and technological challenges, such as those encompassed by the Joint ECFA-NuPECC-APPEC (JENA) initiatives. To this end, the advent of algorithms based on Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) techniques, and the fast progress in the field of Quantum Computing (QC) has opened an entire new world of possibilities.

Recommendations

- Provide long-term career perspectives for software developers in the field
- Facilitate and strengthen access for nuclear physics researchers to large High Performance Computing centres
- Develop research into explainable AI; Enhance transparency and interpretability in scientific AI applications in nuclear physics and adjacent fields.
- Facilitate access to quantum platforms.
- Establish a European network on quantum activities related to nuclear physics.



ML application in nuclear physics



Quantum Comp. in nuclear and particle physics



Open Science and Data

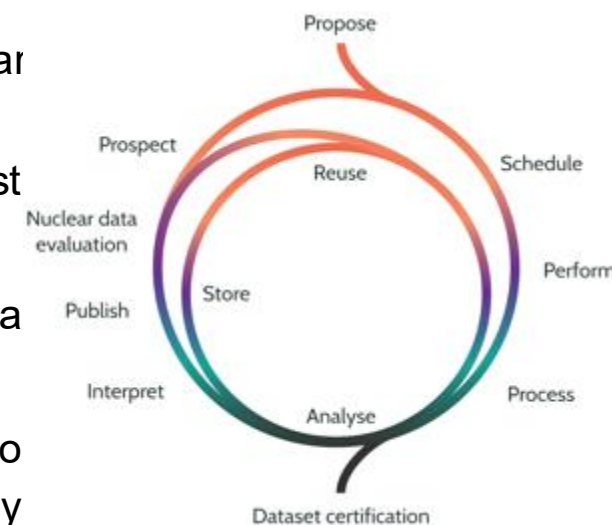
Key Questions & Goals

Open science and Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable (FAIR) data offer an important opportunity for the nuclear physics community to uphold the highest research standards and enhance its societal impact, by treating the scientific production process as a strategic asset.

Recommendations

The results of the ESCAPE and OSCARS EU projects should be fully deployed by and for the nuclear Importance of Joint ECFA-NuPECC-APPEC (JENA) activities is underlined

- The creation and adoption of open science policies and guidelines ... as well as promoting best practices within individual institutes and research infrastructures should be strongly encouraged.
- Creation of coordination bodies to pursue standardization of the Data Life Cycle to ensure data FAIRness should be supported.
- Combine forces of the European nuclear physics research and applications communities to establish a comprehensive European nuclear data program with well-defined priorities defined by stakeholders and sustainable funding to fulfil the needs in nuclear structure and dynamics, astrophysics and applications.
- ...



*Data life cycle
in nuclear physics*



Nuclear Science - People and Society

Key Questions & Goals

Fundamental nuclear science and curiosity-driven research is a rich area of knowledge and development with a broad range of applications and impact on our society. To further develop this pool of knowledge for future generations, however, we must not only explore these areas of knowledge, understanding and development, but communicate them to – and develop them jointly with – the next generations, through outreach, education and training.

Recommendations

- Outreach: We recommend that funding agencies, national and international bodies, and the community of European nuclear physicists emphasise the critical societal investment inspiring the public about nuclear science and its impacts
- Education: We recommend that national educational accreditation bodies, funding agencies, universities and educational institutions, in collaboration with the community of European nuclear physicists work to embed nuclear science across all levels of education, highlighting its interdisciplinary nature and impact
- Training: We recommend that the community of European nuclear physicists in collaboration with funding bodies and other stakeholders resource and support the training of new generations of nuclear scientists, ... technical and engineering staff as well as interdisciplinary researchers



Binding Blocks initiative in UK



Training at EURO-LABS facilities



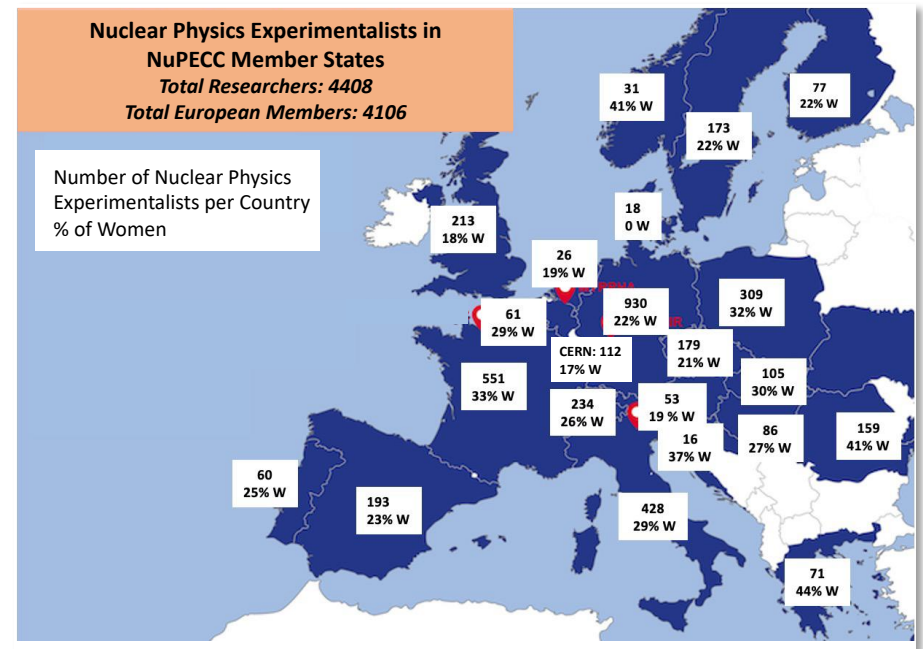
Nuclear Science - People and Society

Key Questions & Goals

The diversity and gender balance in the nuclear physics community should be a mirror of the European society we live in. Early career researchers (ECR) provide the backbone of the different research areas of the nuclear physics community. Further efforts are necessary to inspire and offer opportunities to – particularly – the next generations of scientists, enhancing the impact of nuclear physics and the broader nuclear sciences on people and society.

Recommendations

- Diversity: We recommend that the network of research organisations, funding agencies, as well as scientific collaborations and conference committees should sign up to and promote a diversity charter, such as the one prepared by NuPECC together with APPEC and ECFA. ...identify a body in Europe that takes charge of collating and providing an overview of the monitoring of diversity across nuclear science in Europe
- Careers: We recommend that equitable and inclusive career development is further prioritised by stakeholders across the European nuclear physics community, giving recognition and visibility to the critical contributions of early career researchers (ECR), as the future of nuclear physics and its impact on society
 - support tenure track programs giving highly qualified ECR the opportunity to lead their own group and establish scientific independence (e.g. permanent staff position openings for ECR, European Research Council Starting Grants)



The map shows the community of experimental researchers within NuPECC. For each Country the total number and the ratio of women are given.



Recommendations for facilities

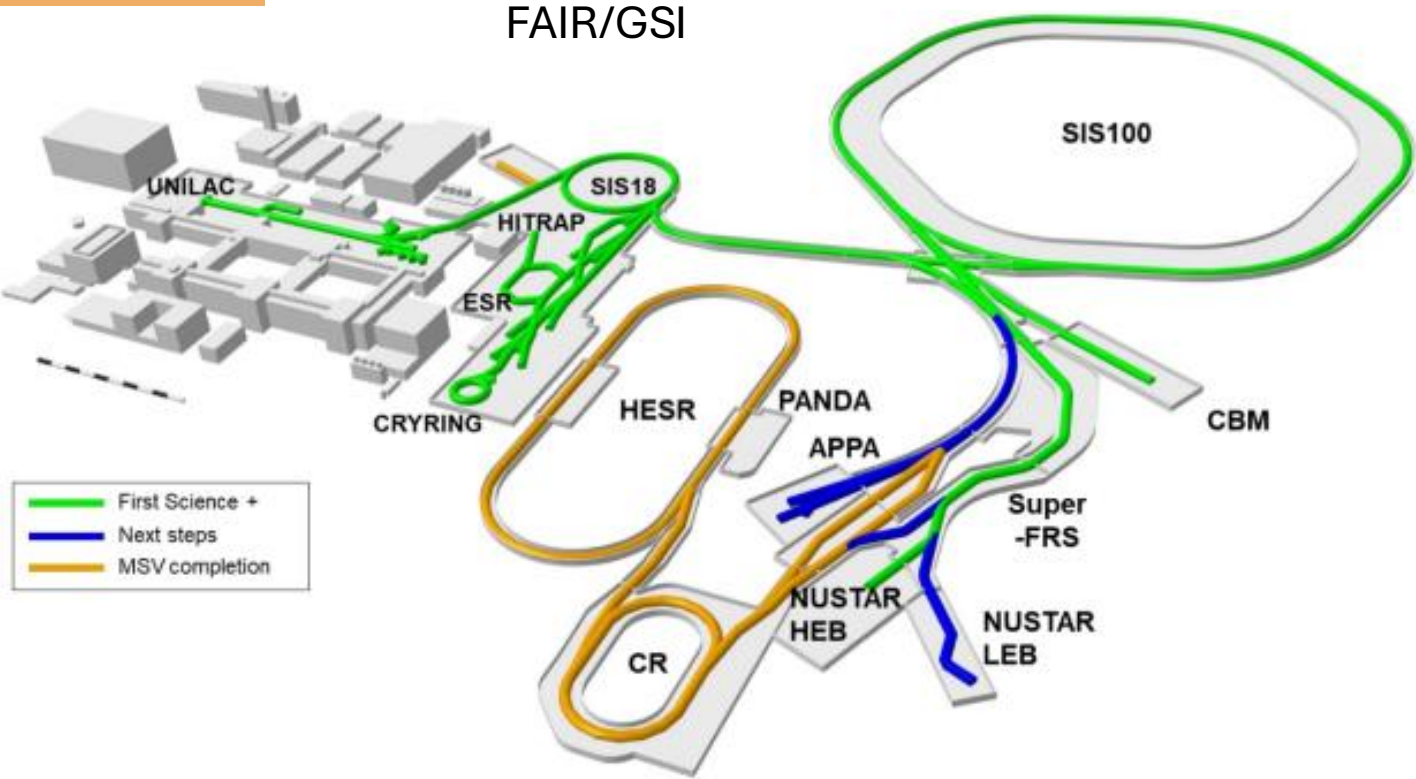


LRP 2024 Recommendations for NP Infrastructures

FAIR facility, Darmstadt, Germany



- The first phase of the international **FAIR** facility is expected to be operational by 2028, facilitating experiments with SIS100 using the High-Energy Branch of the Super-FRS, the CBM cave and the current GSI facilities. Completing the full facility including the **APPA**, **CBM**, **NUSTAR** and **PANDA** programs will provide European science with world-class opportunities for decades and is highly recommended.





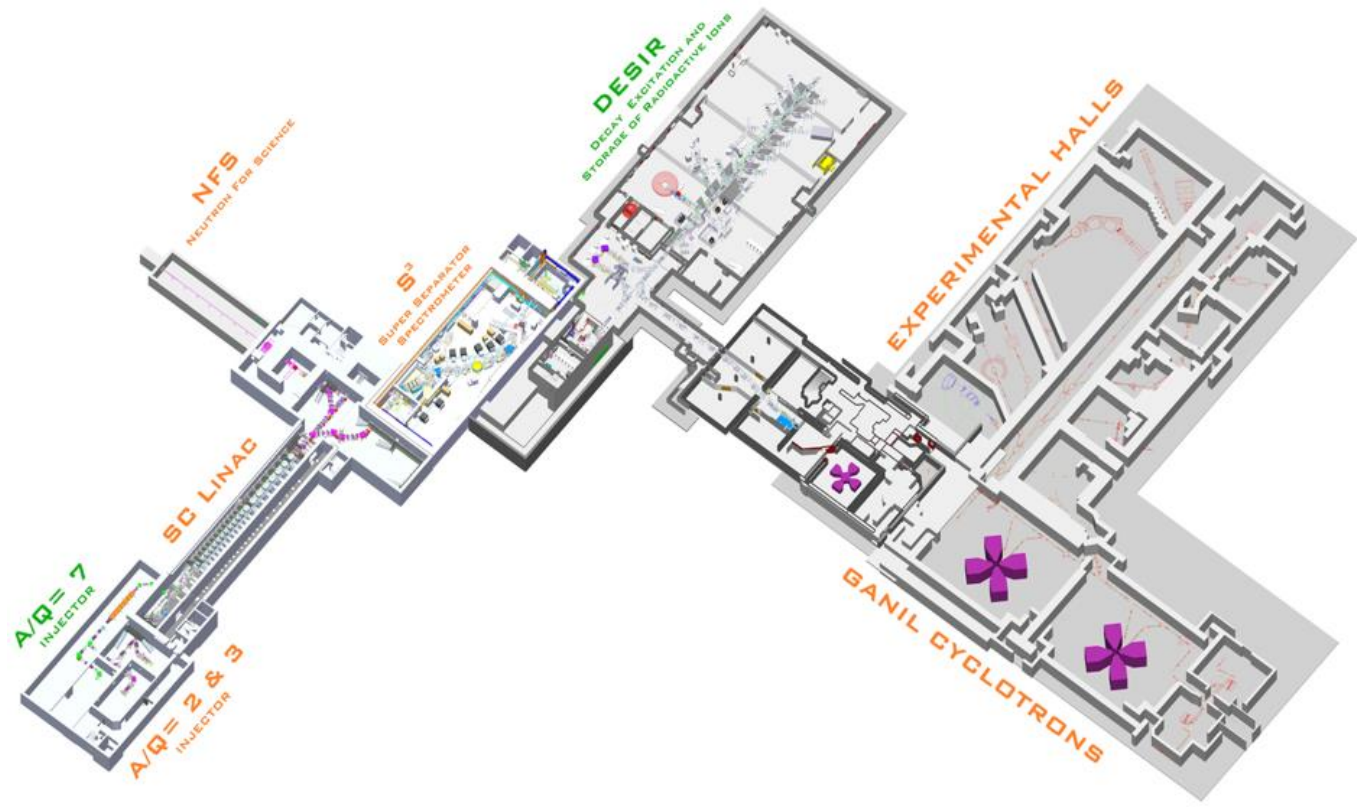
LRP 2024 Recommendations for NP Infrastructures

GANIL/SPIRAL2 facility, Caen, France



GANIL/SPIRAL2 France

- At **GANIL/SPIRAL2** the Super-Separator Spectrometer **S³** is in an advanced stage of completion and the low-energy **DESIR** facility and heavy-ion injector **NEWGAIN**, will be operational from 2027/28. The refurbishing of the cyclotrons will ensure their operation for the next decades. Timely completion and full exploitation of these GANIL/SPIRAL2 projects are recommended. The future evolution of the infrastructure towards a very high-intensity reaccelerated RIB facility of up to 100 MeV/u should be actively planned.

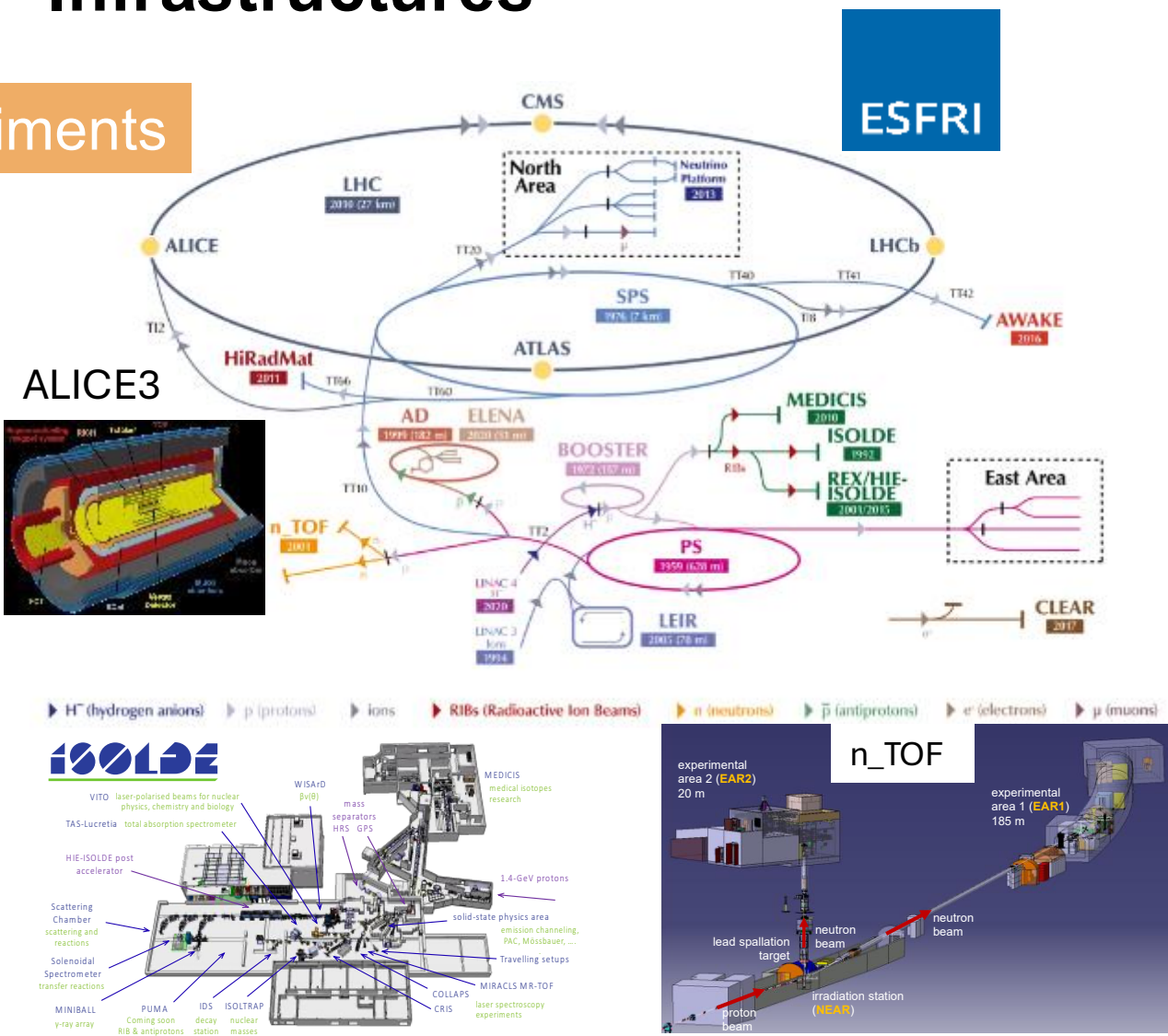


LRP 2024 Recommendations for NP Infrastructures

CERN Nuclear Physics facilities and experiments

- Nuclear physics opportunities at **CERN** constitute a world-leading research . The construction of **ALICE 3** as part of the **HL-LHC** plans is strongly recommended. Continued support for exploitation and new developments are recommended to maximise the scientific output of **ISOLDE**, **n_TOF**, **SPS fixed-target program** and **AD/ELENA**. As the roadmap for the post-LHC future of CERN is developed, a strategy should be prepared to secure future opportunities for continuing world-leading nuclear-physics programmes that are unique to CERN.

-> NP contributions to the ongoing Update of the Strategy for Particle Physics

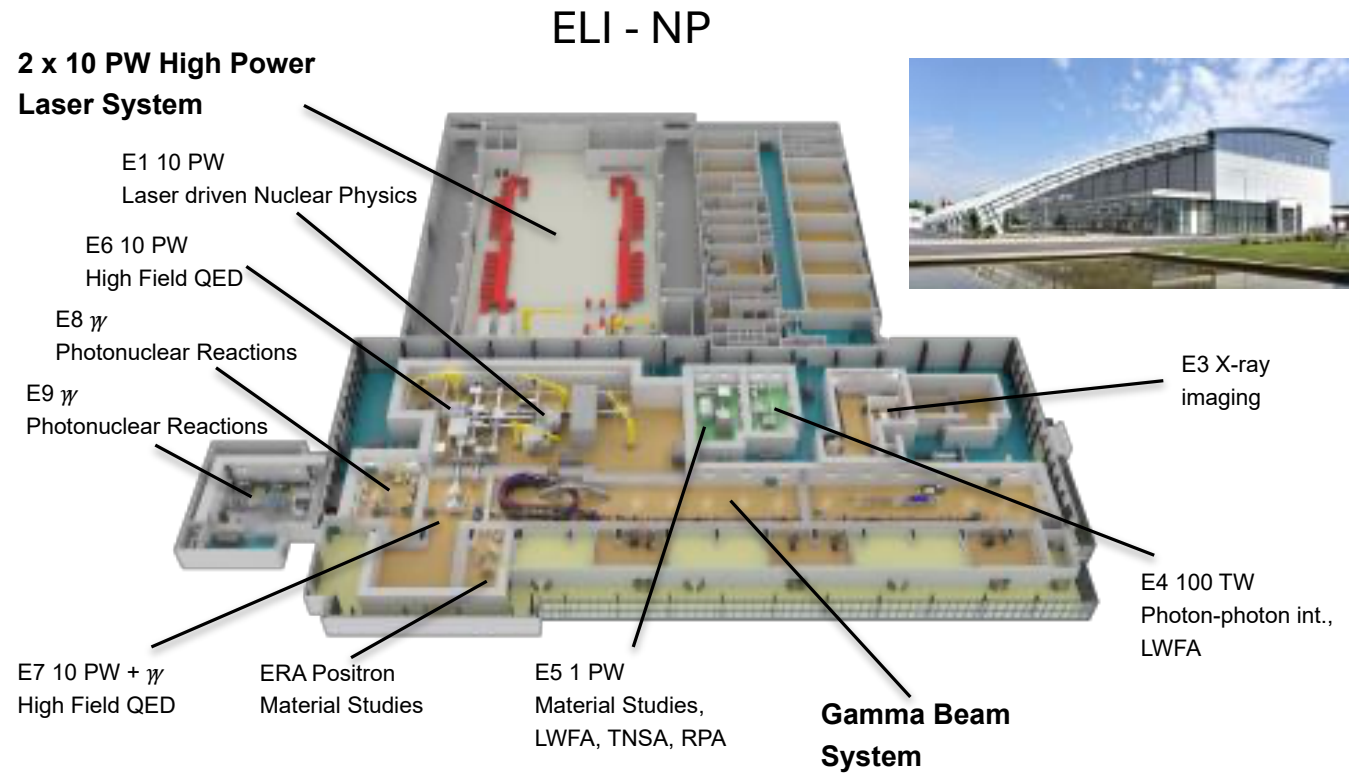


LRP 2024 Recommendations for NP Infrastructures

Extreme Light Infrastructure - Nuclear Physics, Magurele, Romania



- At **ELI-NP** studies will focus on addressing key topics, such as laser-driven ion and electron acceleration. Implementing the gamma beam system to achieve the full completion of the facility to allow breakthrough results in the field of nuclear photonics is of high importance and is strongly recommended.



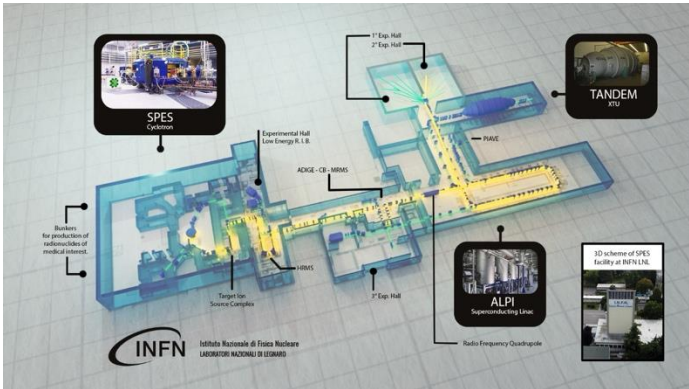
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ISOL radioactive ion beam facilities

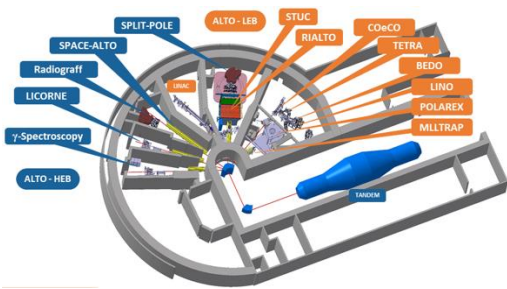
- Timely completion of the **SPES** a facility and continuing coordinated efforts in developing the **ALTO**, **IGISOL**, **ISOLDE**, **SPES**, and **SPIRAL** ISOL facilities in Europe, will be key to maintaining their world-leading position in many areas of radioactive isotope science and are strongly recommended. Extending these efforts towards future facilities, such as **ISOL@MYRRHA**, **TATTOOS@PSI**, and **RIB@IFIN**, together with the development of common instrumentation, will secure the European leading position for radioisotope production, separation, and acceleration techniques, and create new avenues for the future and should therefore be actively pursued.

-> EURO-LABS

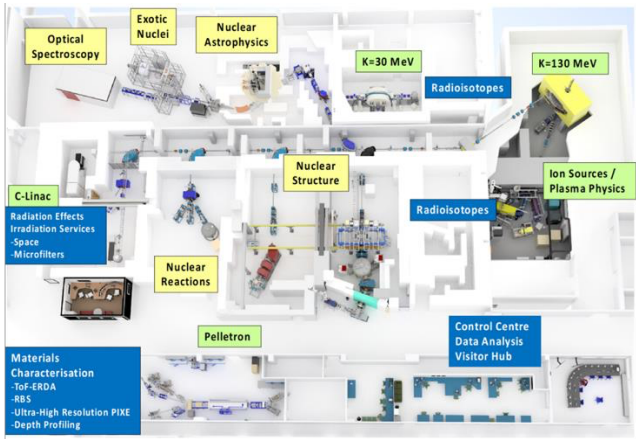
SPES/LNL Italy



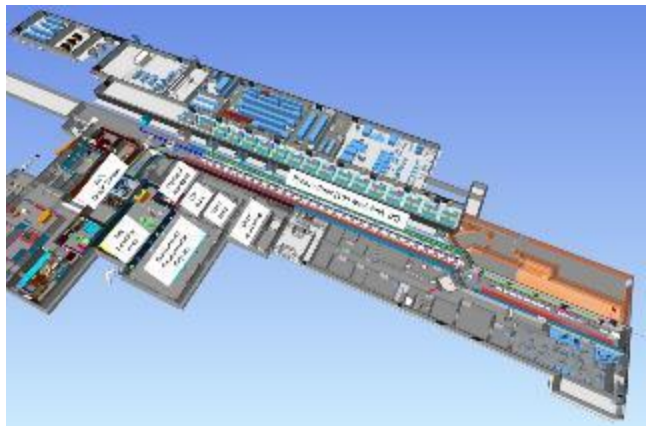
ALTO/IJCLab France



IGISOL/JYFL Finland



ISOL@MYRRHA Belgium



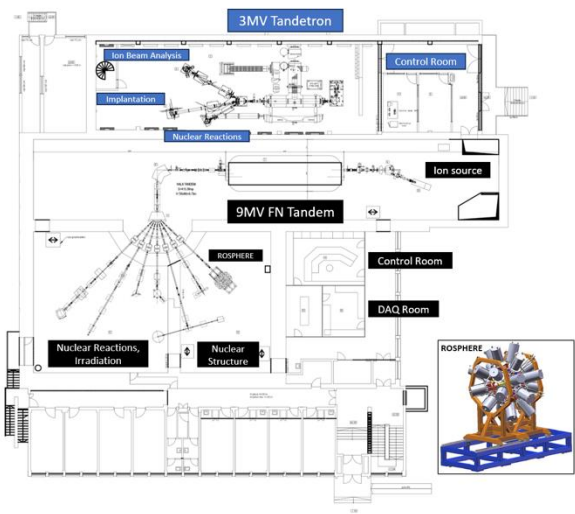
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Stable Ion Beam facilities

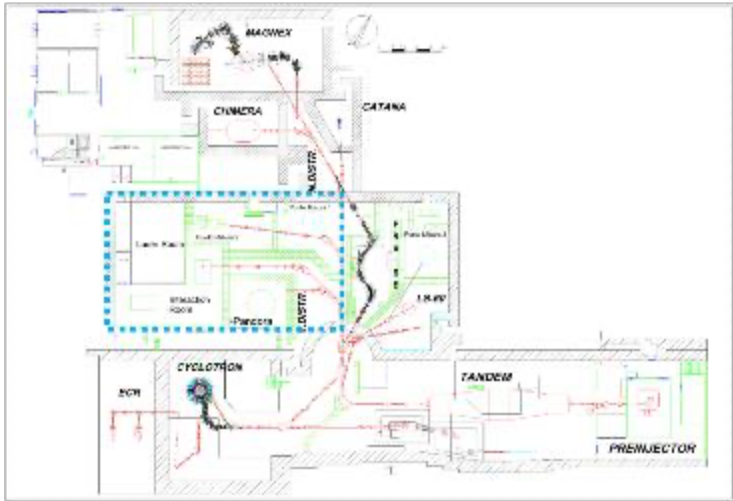
- Large-scale **stable beam** facilities, such as **FAIR/GSI**, **GANIL/SPIRAL2**, **IFIN**, **JYFL-ACCLAB**, **LNL**, **LNS**, **NLC (SLCJ and IFJ-PAN)**, and smaller ones, such as tandems, underground facilities and AMS systems, should be optimally exploited. Developments of novel and more intense beams and capabilities are also recommended to open new opportunities for basic science and applications. It is recommended that synergies between all these facilities, irrespective of size, be reinforced.

-> EURO-LABS

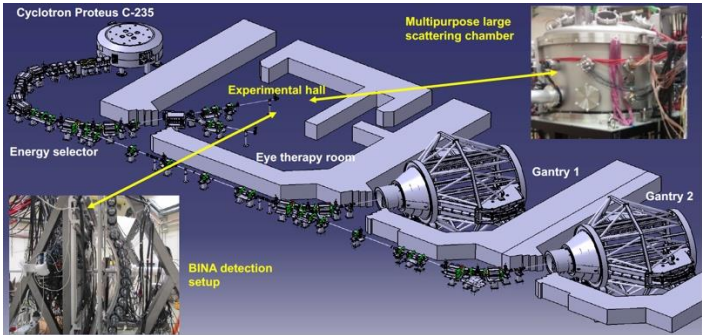
IFIN-HH Romania



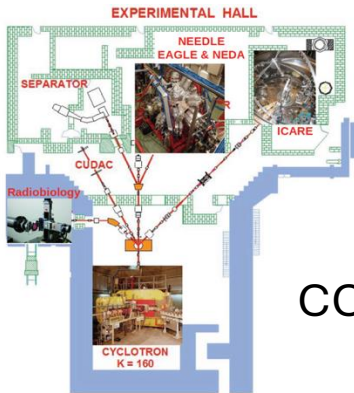
LNS Italy



NLC Poland



SLCJ



CCB

LRP 2024 Recommendations for NP Infrastructures

AGATA European gamma tracking array

- It is strongly recommended to complete the **AGATA** gamma tracking array to its full configuration as a key instrument for studying atomic nuclei in both stable and radioactive ion beam facilities.

AGATA



LRP 2024 Recommendations for NP Infrastructures

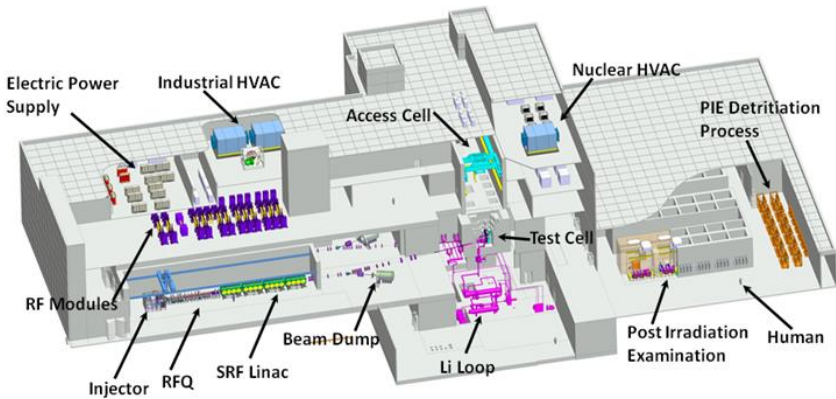
Neutron facilities

- Neutron facilities are playing a significant role in nuclear fundamental research and applications, producing unique and valuable experimental outcomes. The new NFS facility, located at SPIRAL2, is now providing a highly intense neutron flux of fast neutrons, attracting a broad scientific community. It is crucial and strongly recommended to maintain the operation of exceptional neutron facilities like ILL and n_ToF at CERN. **ESS** facility and the future infrastructure **IFMIF-DONES** will provide advanced tools for interdisciplinary research and their unique capabilities to serve advances in nuclear physics should be explored.

ILL France



IFMIF-DONES Spain

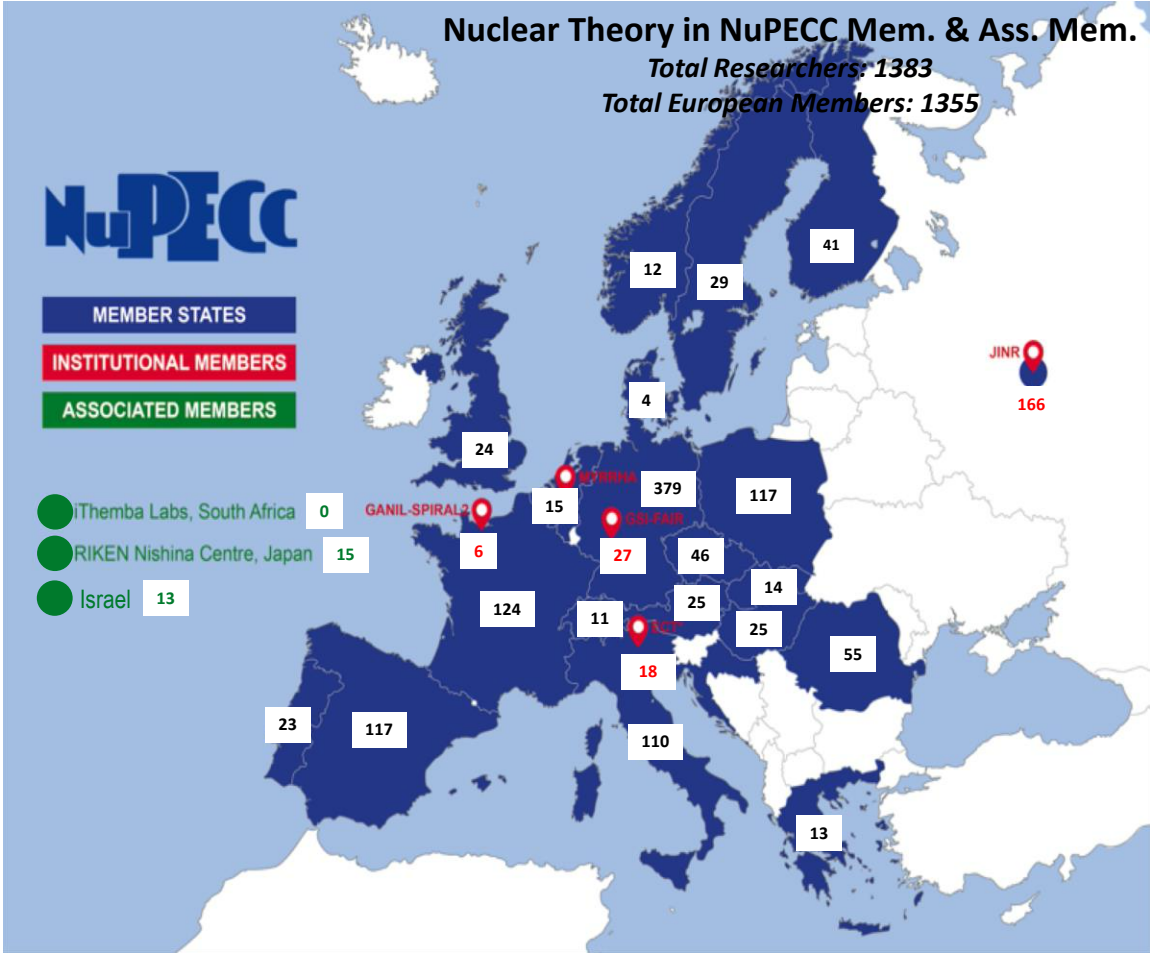


LRP 2024 Recommendations

Theory centres

- Theory centres and groups should be strongly supported throughout Europe, in particular the **European Centre for Theoretical Studies (ECT*, Trento, Italy)**, which is a unique European centre dedicated to theoretical nuclear physics in the broadest sense. A stronger pan-European support which will ensure that **ECT*** activities continue to play a strategic role in the development of nuclear physics in Europe is recommended.

-> EURO-LABS



From NuPECC 2021 survey

ECT*





Implementation of the NuPECC LRP2024

- NuPECC Task Force (directors of the NP ESFRI infrastructures) meetings with the funding agencies of the Member Countries to promote the LRP and encourage its implementation
 - 9 Task Force meetings in 2017-2022
 - Task Force meetings in 2023-2025:
 - Belgium in Brussels on 31/01/2023
 - Slovenia in Ljubljana on 15/03/2023
 - Austria in Vienna on 21/04/2023
 - Germany in Bad Honnef on December 5th, 2024
 - *France planned on 11/06/2025, Strasbourg*
 - *Meetings in Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Finland and Sweden 2025 - 2026*
- Use and cite the LRP2024 in the applications for funding of new projects, collaborations, EU and national grants!
- Make the LRP2024 recommendations known among the nuclear physics community
- Apply for and ensure the support of EU for nuclear physics: next EC calls!



Conclusions

Gert Aarts (Swansea), Hamid Ait Abderrahim (Mol), Dieter Ackermann (Caen), Jörg Aichelin (Nantes), Navin Alahari (Caen), Constantia Alexandrou (Nicosia), Alejandro Algorta (Valencia), Mohammad Al-Turay (Darmstadt), Hector Alvarez-Pol (Santiago de Compostela), Luis Alvarez-Ruso (Valencia), Pietro Antonioli (Bologna), Roberta Araldi (Torino), Marlène Assié (Orsay), Michail Athanasakis-Kaklamanakis (Leuven), Sonia Bacca (Mainz), Claude Bailat (Lausanne), Umberto Battino (Keele), Andreas Bauswein (Darmstadt), Saul Becerio Novo (La Coruña), Daniel Bemmerer (Dresden), Valerio Bertone (Saclay), Diego Bettoni (Ferrara), Sayani Biswas (Villigen), Axel Boeltzig (Dresden), Iva Bogdanović Radović (Zagreb), María J. G. Borge (Madrid), Sebastian Baunack (Mainz), Sonja Bernitt (Darmstadt), Stefano Bianco (Frascati), Matteo Blasson (Milano), Bertram Blank (Bordeaux), Michael Block (Mainz), Andrew Boston (Liverpool), Angela Bracco (Milano), Carlo Bruno (Edinburgh), Franco Camera (Milano), Daniel Cano Ott (Madrid), Giovanni Casini (Firenze), Francesca Cavanna (Torino), Michal Ciemala (Kraków), Cristina Chiappini (Potsdam), Thomas Elias Coccolios (Leuven), Michele Coeck (Mol), Gilberto Colangelo (Bern), Sara Collins (Regensburg), Seán Collins (Teddington), Gianluca Colò (Milano), Luigi Coraggio (Napoli), Sandrine Courtin (Strasbourg), Paolo Crivelli (Zürich), Letitia Cunqueiro-Mendez (Roma), Silvia Dalla Torre (Trieste), Andrea Dainese (Padova), Annalisa D'Angelo (Rome), Luigi del Debbio (Edinburgh), Ruben de Groot (Leuven), Pierre Delahaye (Caen), Achim Denig (Mainz), François de Oliveira (Caen), Rosanna Depalo (Milano), Cesar Domingo (Valencia), Nicolas de Séréville (Orsay), Vivian Dimitriou (Vienna), Alessia Di Pietro (Catania), Timo Dickel (Darmstadt), Christian Diget (York), Jacek Dobaczewski (York), Gall Dodge (Norfolk), Tommaso Dorigo (Padova), Charlotte Duchemin (Geneva), Marco Durante (Darmstadt), Giles Edwards (Manchester), Gernot Eichmann (Graz), Evgeny Epelbaum (Bochum), Xavier Espinal (Geneva), Laura Fabbietti (München), Muriel Fallot (Nantes), Alessandra Fantoni (Frascati), Fanny Farget (Caen), Jenny Felge (Berlin), Paolo Finocchiaro (Catania), Christian Fischer (Gießen), Stefan Flörchinger (Jena), Bogdan Fornal (Kraków), Sean Freeman (Manchester), Anne-Marie Frelin (Caen), Zsolt Fülöp (Debrecen), Hans Fynbo (Aarhus), Liam Gaffney (Liverpool), Tetyana Galatyuk (Darmstadt), Piotr Gasik (Darmstadt), Paola Gianotti (Frascati), Kathrin Göbel (Darmstadt), Robin Golser (Wien), Joaquín Gómez Camacho (Sevilla), Paolo Giubellino (Darmstadt), Martín González Alonso (Valencia), Stéphane Goriely (Brussels), Andrea Gottardo (Legnaro), Jeremy R. Green (Zeuthen), Paul Greenlees (Jyväskylä), Michele Grossi (Geneva), Jana Günther (Wuppertal), Francesca Gulminelli (Caen), Frank Gunsing (Saclay), Philipp Hauke (Trento), Andreas Haungs (Karlsruhe), Marcel Heine (Strasbourg), Fritz-Herbert Heinsius (Bochum), Andreas Heinz (Göteborg), Rolf-Dietmar Herzberg (Liverpool), Morten Hjorth-Jensen (Oslo), Byungsik Hong (Daejeon), Guillaume Hupin (Orsay), Angel Ibarra (Madrid), Andreas Ipp (Wien), Dave Ireland (Glasgow), Karl Jakobs (Freiburg), Tobias Jenke (Grenoble), Ari Jokinen (Jyväskylä), Jordi José (Barcelona), Michel Jouvin (Orsay), Arnd Junghans (Dresden), Beatriz Jurado (Bordeaux), Ihor Kadenko (Kiev), Alexander Philipp Kalweit (Geneva), Anu Kankainen (Jyväskylä), Zsolt Kasztovszky (Budapest), Bernhard Ketzer (Bonn), Alfons Khokkaz (Münster), Klaus Kirch (Villigen), Gabor Kiss (Debrecen), Christian Klein-Boesing (Münster), Andreas Knecht (Villigen), Ulli Köster (Grenoble), Agnieszka Korgul (Warsaw), Wolfram Korten (Saclay), Michal Kowal (Warsaw), Magdalena Kowalska (Geneva), Marc Labiche (Daresbury), Denis Lacroix (Orsay), Tuomas Lappi (Jyväskylä), Ann-Cecillie Larsen (Oslo), Barbara Maria Latacz (Geneva), Yen-Jie Lee (MIT), Yvonne Leifels (Darmstadt), Antoine Lemasson (Caen), Silvia Leoni (Milano), Marek Lewitowicz (Caen), Razvan Lica (Bucharest), Armandina Lima Lopes, (Porto), Yuri A. Litvinov (Darmstadt), Maria Lugaro (Budapest), Frank Maas (Mainz), Bastian Märkisch (München), Adam Maj (Kraków), Giulia Manca (Cagliari), Vladimir Manea (Orsay), Ana Maria Marin Garcia (Darmstadt), Jérôme Margueron (Lyon), Silvia Masciocchi (Heidelberg), Jan Matousek (Prague), Adrien Matta (Caen), Ulf Meißner (Bonn), Javier Menendez (Barcelona), Daniele Mengoni (Padova), Johan Messchendorp (Darmstadt), Caterina Michelagnoli (Grenoble), Renata Mikolajczak (Świerk), Alexander Milov (Weizmann), Andrew Mistry (Darmstadt), Hervé Moutarde (Saclay), Carlos Munoz Camacho (Orsay), Luciano Musa (Geneva), Enrique Nacher (Madrid), Eugenio Nappi (Bari), Silvia Nicolai (Orsay), Tamara Niksic (Zagreb), Uwe Oberlack (Mainz), Natalia Oreshkina (Heidelberg), Janno Pakarinen (Jyväskylä), Katia Parodi (München), Sorin Pascu (Bucharest), Vincenzo Patera (Roma), Nikolas Patronis (Ioannina), Nancy Paul (Paris), Ekkehard Peik (Braunschweig), Thomas Peltzmann (Utrecht), Lino Miguel Pereira Da Costa, (Leuven), Elena Perez del Rio (Kraków), Stefano Piano (Geneva), Silvia Piantelli (Firenze), Guillaume Pignol (Grenoble), Rosario Gianluca Pizzone (Catania), Arjan Plompen (Geel), Zsolt Podolyak (Surrey), Tina Pollmann (Amsterdam), Lucia Popescu (Mol), Veronique Pulli (Orsay), Catarina Quintans (Lisbon), Riccardo Raabe (Leuven), Marco Radici (Pavia), Panu Rähkila (Jyväskylä), Gerhard Reicherzer (Bochum), Arnau Rios (Barcelona), Marco Ripani (Genova), Tomas Rodriguez (Madrid), Manuela Rodriguez-Gallardo (Sevilla), Thomas Roger (Caen), Alessandro Roggero (Trento), Patricia Roussel-Chomaz (Caen), Berta Rubio (Valencia), Hiroyoshi Sakurai (Wako), Piotr Salabura (Kraków), Carlos Salgado (Santiago de Compostela), Magnus Schlösser (Karlsruhe), Konrad Schmidt (Dresden), Karin Schönnig (Uppsala), Maria Dorothea Schumann (Villigen), Paul Schuurmans (Hasselt), Jochen Schwiening (Darmstadt), Nathal Severijns (Leuven), Haik Simon (Darmstadt), Monica Sisti (Milano), Raimond Snellings (Utrecht), Olga Soloveva (Frankfurt), Vittorio Soma (Saclay), Olivier Sorlin (Caen), Paul D. Stevenson (Surrey), Olivier Stezowski (Lyon), Thomas Stöhlker (Jena), Joachim Stroth (Frankfurt), Sven Sturm (Heidelberg), Zeynep Talip (Villigen), Annika Thiel (Bonn), Eugenia Toimil-Molares (Darmstadt), Livius Trache (Bucharest), Martino Trassinelli (Paris), Stefan Ulmer (Düsseldorf), José Javier Valiente Dobón (Legnaro), Marine Vandebrout (Saclay), Charlot Vandevoorde (Darmstadt), Marc Vanderhaeghen (Mainz), Ana Vaniqui (Mol), Ubirajara van Kolck (Trento), Martin Venhart (Bratislava), Jelena Vesić (Ljubljana), Enrico Vigezzi (Milano), Vladimir Wagner (Rež), Clemens Walther (Hannover), Liangxiao Wang (Frankfurt), Carl Wheldon (Birmingham), Urs Wiedemann (Geneva), Eberhard Widmann (Wien), Jonathan Wilson (Orsay), Kathrin Wimmer (Darmstadt), Andreas Zilges (Köln)

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