

# Survey of national coordinating structures of synchrotron radiation users in Europe

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# Introduction

**T**his survey was undertaken in the context of ongoing ESF scientific-strategic action on issues of large research facilities in Europe.

The overall finding of this special survey is that coordination of synchrotron radiation use and users is handled rather differently from country to country. However, in all countries for which replies to the enquiry of ESF-PESC are available, there are institutional structures and/or mechanisms for ensuring such coordination, with the exception of Slovenia, which relies entirely on individual experts.

Four typical schemes for coordinating structures seem to exist (often assisted by individual experts or expert groups), namely:

- 1.** In a sizeable number of countries, coordination is ensured by ESF Member Organisations, either directly (as in Belgium, France, Portugal and Spain), or through one or several entities either pre-existing or established *ad hoc*, under the ESF Member Organisation's aegis (for example Denmark for the use of facilities abroad, and Sweden).
- 2.** In some instances coordination is undertaken entirely by a pre-existing structure or an *ad hoc* entity under its aegis. Such structures may be a learned society (as in Austria), a research centre (as in Greece) or an academy (as in Israel).
- 3.** In other cases structures have been created specifically for the purpose of coordination (for example, in Denmark for the use of their domestic facility, and in Germany and Poland).
- 4.** In the remaining cases the coordination of responsibilities is shared by several entities of sometimes widely differing natures, such as in Hungary (a learned society\* and a

committee of an academy\*) or Italy (an *ad hoc* society, a research council\* and an institute\*), in the Netherlands (an institute and a research council\*), in Norway (an expert group, a programme of a research council\* and an *ad hoc* group), in the United Kingdom, (an *ad hoc* forum, a research centre and a research council\*).

*(NB: ESF Member Organisations are asterisked in this paragraph.)*

Particulars from each country are given in the following pages. Information obtained on selection procedures of applications for beam time, their funding etc. was scant and could therefore not be included in this survey report.

Editors

Dr. Hans U Karow • Marie Clifford

*ESF Standing Committee for Physical and  
Engineering Sciences (PESC)*

## AUSTRIA

Information received from Professor H. Rauch for NESY and Professor P. Laggner for AUSTROSAX

There is a special committee (NESY) of the Austrian Physical Society.

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**UPDATE**

A formal collaborative research agreement exists between the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Italian Synchrotron Light Source ELETTRA, Trieste, under which the Austrian Beam-Line for X-Ray Small-Angle Scattering (AUSTROSAX) is operating and is made available to the national and international user communities.

Coordinator:

**Prof. Peter Laggner**

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## BELGIUM

Information received from Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS) and from Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO)

FWO is the coordinating organisation for Flanders.

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**UPDATE**

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

Information received from Dr. Jaromir Hrdy from the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

There is the Czech Synchrotron Radiation Society which is a branch of the Unity of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists.

Chairman:

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## DENMARK

Information received from Forskningsrådene – The Danish Research Councils

A Danish Centre for synchrotron-based x-ray research (DANSYNC) was established in 1996 by the Danish Natural Science Research Council (SNF) as an organisation of Danish users of hard x-ray synchrotron facilities abroad.

The Institute for Storage Ring Facilities (ISA) and its Board coordinate the use of the national facility ASTRID at Aarhus University.

### **(1) Danish Centre for Synchrotron-based X-ray Research (DANSYNC)**

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## FINLAND

Information received from the Academy of Finland (Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering)

The Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering of the Academy of Finland has the overall responsibility for funding, coordinating and representing users at ESRF. However, as there is no official coordination structure for synchrotron radiation use, the

users apply independently for beam time at foreign facilities. For this purpose they can apply for research support from the Academy. The funding decisions are made by the relevant research council (committee) on the basis of the research plan and the scientific competence of the researcher.

The Finnish Physical Society has a special section of users of the synchrotron radiation facilities with about 50 members. Its main role is to give information to those using synchrotron radiation in their research activities and especially to PhD students. The section organises meetings and summer schools.

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## FRANCE

Information received from Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and from Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (CEA)

Two institutions jointly represent and coordinate the users of synchrotron radiation facilities and their needs, namely CNRS and CEA.

**(1) Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (CEA)**

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**(2) Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)**

Person-in-charge to be designated soon.



Information received from Professor Eberhard Umbach, Chairman of the German Synchrotron Radiation Committee

There is a national committee “Forschung mit Synchrotronstrahlung” (Synchrotron Radiation Research) established in 1987. Its terms of reference include the use, upgrading and design of German and international sources; the representation of German users of international facilities, notably in terms of access; making recommendations on research topics, instrumentation and selection of applications; matters concerning the synchrotron radiation-related scientific environment; the exchange of information; and publications.

This body consists of 7 scientists elected from among the user community (presently 1 250 scientists), at the most 5 (currently 3) coopted users from related fields, the scientific directors of HASYLAB and BESSY, and the German representative of the ESRF council as members, and of representatives from the administrative coordinators (DESY-HS, BEO-PFR), from BMBF (Ministry of Education and Science), from DFG (German Research Society), and of the scientific directors of the facilities ELSA, DELTA, ANKA, and ESRF as guests.

Chairman:

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**Prof. W. Eberhardt** (Jülich)

**Prof. R. Frahm** (Düsseldorf)

**Prof. W. Gudat** (BESSY)

**Prof. U. Heinemann** (Berlin)

**Prof. K. Huemmer** (Karlsruhe)

**Prof. G. Materlik** (Hamburg/ESRF)

**Prof. E. Rühl** (Osnabrück)

**Prof. G. Schmahl** (Göttingen)

**Prof. J. Schneider** (HASYLAB)

**Dr. H. Prescher** (DEGUSSA)

## GREECE

Information received from The National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF)

Users of synchrotron or similar facilities are coordinated in Greece by the National Centre for Scientific Research “Demokritos”

Contact:

**Dr. Floratos**

*Director of the Institute of Nuclear Physics • NCSR “Demokritos”*  
15310 Aghia Paraskevi • Attiki  
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## HUNGARY

Information received from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

The coordination and representation of Hungarian research activities are carried out (mainly in an informal mode) by ELFT (Eoetvoes Lorand Society of Physics) and by the Synchrotron Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

**(1) Eoetvoes Lorand Society of Physics – Synchrotron and Neutron Committee**

Chairman:

**Gyula Faigel**

*Research Institute for Solid State Physics and Optics*  
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**(2) Hungarian Academy of Sciences – Synchrotron Committee**

Chairman:

**Denes Berenyi**

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## ISRAEL

Information received from the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities

National activities in synchrotron radiation research are coordinated by an

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## ITALY

Information received from Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR)

Synchrotron radiation users are coordinated by three structures, the first of which Società Italiana Luce di Sincrotrone (SILS) organises an annual meeting with workshops. There is also a specific user committee for the facility ELETTRA in Trieste.

Information received from INFN

### **(1) Società Italiana Luce di Sincrotrone (SILS)**

Chairman:

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**(2) CNR Synchrotron Radiation Committee**

Chairman:

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**(3) INFN Synchrotron Radiation Committee**

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## THE NETHERLANDS

Information received from the Netherlands Organisation for  
Scientific Research (NWO)

### **NWO – ESRF Contact Committee (ECC)**

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Other useful contact:

### **DUBBLE-Office (Netherlands-Flemish Beamline at ESRF)**

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Information received from the Research Council of Norway

The Research Council of Norway has given the responsibility for activities related to synchrotron radiation to its National Programme for Material Sciences, which receives advice on matters concerning synchrotron radiation from a group of scientific experts from all universities and other relevant bodies who are key users in Norway. The same group represents users in Norwegian Synchrotron Research AS, the company that coordinates activity at the Swiss-Norwegian Beam Lines (SNBL) at the ESRF.

## (1) Scientific Group for Synchrotron Research

Chairman:

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## (2) The National Programme for Material Sciences

Chairman:

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*IFE*

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## (3) Norwegian Synchrotron Research AS

Managing Director

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## POLAND

Information received from Professor Jerzy M. Langer

Polish researchers use facilities at HASYLAB/DESY, LURE, ADONE (Trieste), and ESRF. They are linked by the Polish Synchrotron Radiation Society, which is a member of the European Synchrotron Radiation Society.

Another contact person, especially on novel light sources, is Professor Zakrzewski who is a member of the Board of DESY.

### (1) Polish Synchrotron Radiation Society

Chairman:

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### (2) Other useful contact

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## PORTUGAL

Information received from the Institute for International Scientific and Technological Cooperation (ICCTI)

Users of ESRF are coordinated nationally by ICCTI. Users of other facilities contact these facilities directly and apply for support to the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT).

### **National Coordination of Synchrotron Radiation Users**

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## SLOVENIA

Information received from Professor V. Kaucic, National Institute of Chemistry, Ljubljana

There is no formal coordination of synchrotron users, who apply individually for beam time at foreign sources; most of them are members of the European Synchrotron Radiation Society.

There is an initiative to construct and operate a Slovenian beam line at ELETTRA in Trieste; for more information on this subject please contact:

**Dr. Mark Plesko**

*Jozef Stefan Institute*

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## SPAIN

Information received from Francisco Ferrandiz of the Oficina de Ciencia y Tecnología (OCYT)

The body in charge of the coordination of international scientific activities is the Oficina de Ciencia y Tecnología (OCYT).

The national Commission of Synchrotron Radiation Users, linked to OCYT, and made up of 25 members, most of them scientists, collects and conveys the needs of the users and advises on the planning of future research actions, among them the construction of SPLINE.

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## SWEDEN

Information received from the Swedish Natural Science Research Council (NFR)

NFR is responsible for the coordination and utilisation by Swedish scientists of national and international synchrotron radiation facilities, with (a) a committee for funding and coordination of the major national research facilities including MAX-Lab, and (b) a committee specifically for synchrotron radiation research, with the major task of coordinating connections with ESRF and other synchrotron radiation facilities and to promote Swedish participation in the scientific activities at these facilities.

### **(1) NFR Committee for National Research Facilities**

Chairperson:

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## (2) NFR Committee for Synchrotron Radiation Research

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## SWITZERLAND

Information received from Paul Burkhard of the Swiss National Science Foundation

### (1) Swiss Light Source (SLS), Paul Scherrer Institut (PSI)

Contact Person:

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### (2) Other useful contacts

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**Swiss-Norwegian Beam Lines at ESRF**

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## TURKEY

Information received from T. Tankut of the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)

There is not yet a formal coordination of Synchrotron Radiation (SR) use and users in Turkey.

Some crystallographers, molecular biologists, chemists, and physicists have been using SR through conducting joint projects with their collaborators abroad. The number of potential SR users is estimated at over a hundred. If the Synchrotron Light facility BESSY-1 could be transferred to a location in a Middle East country, or the potential SR users could come together as a community, the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey, as an ESF Member Organisation, could take full responsibility for the coordination of SR users.

## UNITED KINGDOM

Information received from Fiona Wild of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

The coordination and representation of users and their needs are undertaken largely by the Synchrotron Radiation User Forum and the technique-based User Groups represented on it. Along with the User Forum, the Biology Programme Joint Steering Committee (BPJSC) plays a role in representing user requirements to the SRS. There is less well developed coordination in representing users and their requirements at international facilities although some UK users attend user meetings held by other facilities such as the ESRF.

### (1) Synchrotron Radiation User Forum

Chairman: **Prof. Colin Noms**

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## **(2) Synchrotron Radiation Source (SRS)**

Director: **Prof. David Norman**

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## **(3) Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)**

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## **(4) Other useful contacts**

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