



yHEP Report

Valerie Lang

Annual meeting of particle physicists in Germany

18 Nov 2022

On behalf of the yHEP management board:

Alina Nasr-Esfahani, Felipe Peña, Annika Thiel, Leonel Morejon, Michael Lupberger, Pardis Niknejadi,
Farah Afzal, Valerie Lang

Young High Energy Physicist Association



- Representing early career scientists (everybody w/o permanent contract)
Phd students, Postdocs, Junior Research-Group Leaders, etc.

- Founded in 2015, currently >~300 members

- Sections → Related to committees

- Particle physics → [KET](#)
- Astroparticle physics → [KAT](#)
- Physics of Hadrons and Nucleons → [KHuK](#)
- New since the past year:
Accelerator physics → [KfB](#)

- yHEP with one ex-officio member in KET, KAT, KHuK (KfB ongoing)

- Goals

- Assessing and improving situation of non-permanent scientists
- Shaping the future of physics
- Improvement of environmental sustainability in science
- Networking

Contact & Info:

yhep-info@desy.de

[Webpage](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Become a member?

Sign-up to the mailing list

yHEP Management Board



- Elected by members every year → Next election starting next week
 - 2 representatives per section

Particle Physics



Valerie Lang

Chair

Akad. Rat a.Z.
Uni Freiburg



Michael
Lupberger

Postdoc
Uni Bonn

Astroparticle Physics



Alina
Nasr-Esfahani

PhD Student
Uni Wuppertal



Leonel
Morejon

Dep. Chair

Postdoc
Uni Wuppertal

Hadrons & Nuclei



Annika Thiel

Jun. Prof.
Uni Bonn



Farah Afzal

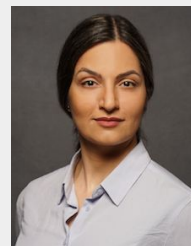
Postdoc
Uni Bonn

Accelerator Physics



Felipe Peña

PhD student
Uni Hamburg/
DESY



Pardis
Niknejadi

Tenure track
scientist
DESY

yHEP activities in the past year

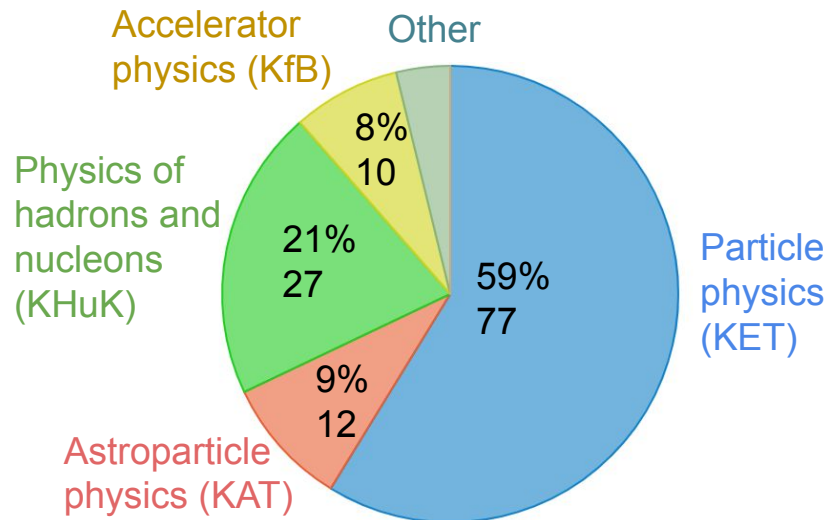
- Triggered by/Based on:
 - Requests from KET/ECFA and/or the corresponding other committees: KAT, KHuK, KfB + European counterparts
 - Providing young scientists' view in the committee work
 - Our own agenda

- Survey conducted in March 2022 among yHEP members

- On the situation of young researchers in Germany
- Covering the areas
 - General - demographics
 - Work situation
 - Financial/contract situation
 - Work-life balance
 - Career paths
 - Diversity and Inclusion
 - Feedback
- 131 complete responses

- Presentation of first results

- At the RECFA visit (see next slide)
- At the annual meetings this year
- Further analysis is still ongoing - if you are interested to contribute, please let us know!



Many thanks to all who replied!

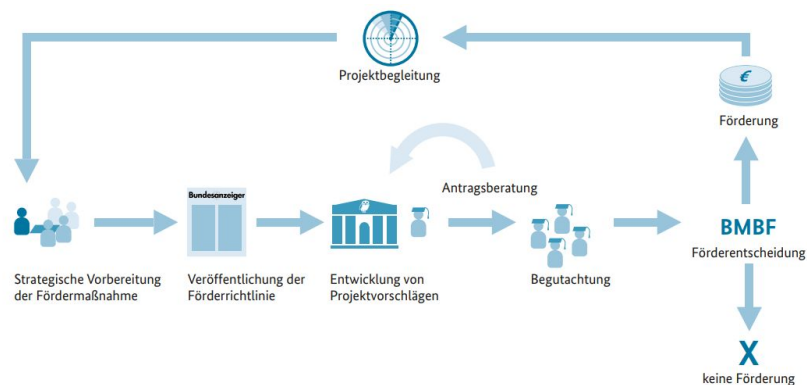
RECFA visit in Berlin



- European Committee for future accelerators (ECFA)
 - Restricted ECFA panel → Visits member states every few years
 - Visit in Germany, Berlin: [1 April 2022](#)
 - yHEP included with presentation on [Perspective of Young Scientists](#)
 - Resulting statements from the RECFA visit include [Executive summary](#) and [Letter](#)
→ Recommendations in relation to young researchers:
 - Keep number of PhD students with adequate salaries (i.e. increase funding accordingly)
 - Measures to increase the number of permanent scientist positions at universities
- Nominations for [Early-Career Researcher Panel](#) (ECR) of ECFA
 - Looking for two nominations starting until mid June next year at the latest
 - Appointments are for two years & can be prolonged
 - Need to fulfil quotas for PhD/postdocs, experiment/theory, institutes, etc.
 - If there is interest and/or you have suggestions, please get in contact with us
 - Official call will come next year in ~April, but feel free to already think about it

BMBF funding

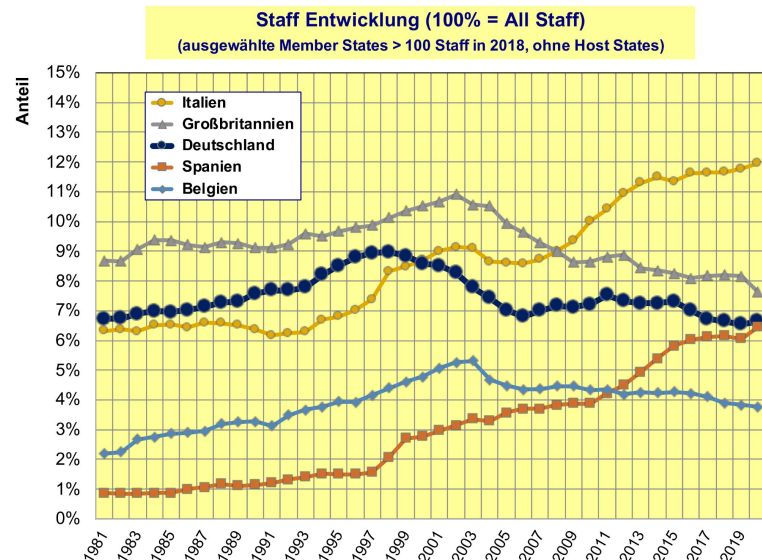
- Recap: Funding notifications from BMBF tended to arrive late
 - Particularly bad situation for the funding period 2021-2024 → Notifications arrived even after start of new funding period
 - Protest letter from yHEP sent to the BMBF in November 2021, pointing out the implications for non-permanent researchers
 - Coordinated with KET and KHuK, also informed KAT
 - Reply from BMBF received → discussions via DESY-PT how to improve next time
- Joint call from yHEP, KET and KHuK
 - Move full process 3 months earlier
→ have funding notifications at latest 3 months before start of new funding period
 - Consequence: Strategy discussion (1st step) 3 months earlier → Hence strategy workshop this Sat in preparation
- Announcement of effort by BMBF in this direction for 2024-2027 today → Many thanks for this!



Source: [BMBF Aktionsplan ErUM-Pro](#)

Situation of German employment at CERN

- Germans under-represented among CERN staff
 - Mismatch between Germany's CERN budget contribution (~21) and German CERN staff (7 %)
 - CERN-Germany working group (WG) founded to address the problem
- yHEP involved in KET-BMBF and CERN-Germany WG meeting on the topic
 - Discussions from yHEP with 3 engineers/hardware-related researchers to identify potential issues
 - Results presented to CERN-Germany WG in September 2022
 - Positively received by BMBF
 - Fingers crossed that it will improve the situation



Source: [DAC webpage](#)

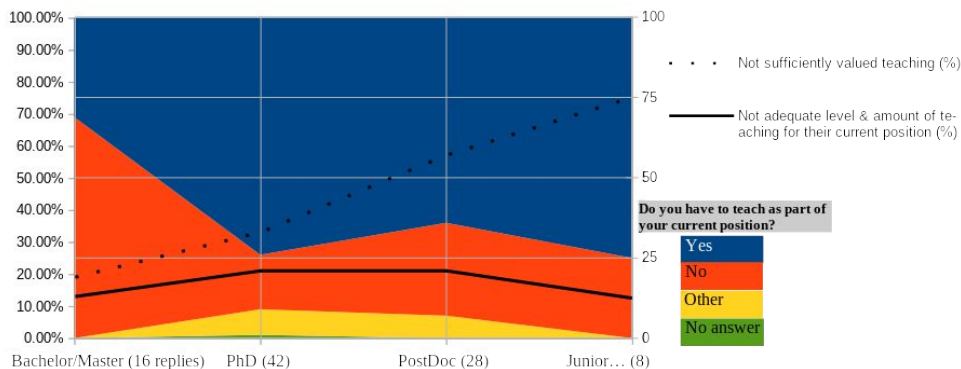
Teaching

- One outcome of the yHEP survey: Potential issue = Teaching

- Dissatisfaction of young researchers with teaching situation observed → in particular for junior research group leaders, etc.
- From the survey - how could the value of teaching be improved?

46 replies with suggestions

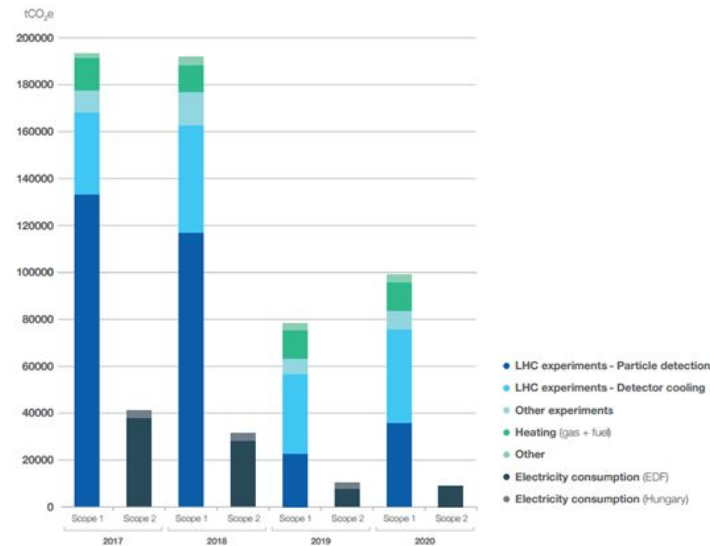
- Better comparability between universities / institutes
 - Recognition of teaching responsibilities for applications
 - Proper training in teaching
 - Honest time allocation and inclusion in job profile
- Started discussions in KET and the annual meeting (yesterday)
→ Follow up with concrete suggestions how to improve!



For universities only

Environmental sustainability in science

- Bringing environmental sustainability to the forefront in HEP
 - [Addendum](#) to previous yHEP statement published in Dec 2021 on [webpage](#)
 - yHEP Campaign: “Know your footprint” in preparation → If interested to contribute, please let us know
- CERN/HEP have non-negligible impact on the environment!
- Related workshops/forums in 2022:
 - [Sustainable HEP Workshop - 2nd edition](#) in Sept.
 - [Town hall: CERN Year of Environmental Awareness: outcome and future perspectives](#) in Sept.
 - [CERN and the Environment](#) in Oct.
 - ATLAS and DESY sustainability forums (re-)instantiated



Source: [Vol 2: CERN Environment Report](#)

Networking and events



- Annual yHEP meetings at DPG spring conferences in 2022
 - [KET+KAT annual meeting](#): 23 March 2022 (Heidelberg) → via Zoom at the end
 - [KHuK+KfB annual meeting](#): 29 March 2022 (Mainz) → via Zoom at the end
 - Hopefully next year in-person again - fingers crossed!!!
- Next Panel discussion: Planned on the topic of Mental Health
 - If you have ideas for good speakers, please let us know
 - Stay tuned for the announcement!
 - If interested to join, [sign-up to our mailing list](#)! → Zoom link will be sent around there

Conclusion



- yHEP = young High Energy Physicists Association
 - Representing interests of early-career researchers in Germany
 - Management board elected every year → Next election to start next week
- Lots of activity in the past year
 - Looking forward to more activities in the next year with a new management board!

→ Spread the word to PhD students, postdocs, etc
→ Get in contact!

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Thank you for your attention