

Minutes of the GUEC Kick-off meeting held on February 22nd 2023

Participants:

GANIL Direction: Patricia Chomaz (director), Fanny Farget (deputy director).

GUEC: Beatriz Fernandez Dominguez (chair), Franco Galtarossa, Michal Ciemala, Hervé Savajols, Iolanda Matea, Marika Schleberger, José Lay, John Frankland (secretary)

Agenda:

1. Round table: short presentation of each member
 2. GUEC functioning
 3. Expectations from GANIL management
 4. Scientific Council topics, visiting scientist program, GANIL PhD prize, organization of GCM, including a possible new organization, more focused on GANIL use?
 5. Expectations from GUEC ? Suggestions for new functions or attributions ?
 6. Election of GUEC chairperson
 7. AOB
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The meeting began with a short introduction of all the members of the GUEC and the GANIL management (GAN.DIR). The composition of the new GUEC is:

- Elected members:
 - **Beatriz Fernandez Dominguez [CHAIR]**
 - Michal Ciemala
 - Franco Galtarossa
- Representing travelling detectors:
 - Iolanda Matea
- Representing local infrastructure :
 - Hervé Savajols
- Representing interdisciplinary research programmes:
 - Marika Schleberger
- Representing the theory community:
 - José-Antonio Lay
- GANIL management Representative and Secretary:
 - John Frankland

During the meeting, BFD was unanimously elected chairperson of the GUEC.

GAN.DIR then reminded everybody of the reasons for the creation of the GUEC:

- closer contact between GANIL and its users;
- improve communication in both directions;
- an active GUEC is essential to ensure GAN.DIR is kept informed of any problems experienced by the users (and indeed of their satisfaction!)*;
- GUEC input is important for the organisation of experiments with large/complicated set-ups into campaigns, but also to ensure that smaller experimental groups are not neglected in favour of the larger collaborations.

**MS, as the only former member of the GUEC, points out that, in the past, communication with the users has been difficult, as it is often hard for GUEC to get feedback from users.*

GAN.DIR also recalls the responsibilities/attributions of the GUEC, which are:

- organisation of the **GANIL Community Meeting (GCM)** every 2 years (next GCM: 2024);

- organisation of a session/in-person meeting at the **Colloque GANIL** (next Colloque: 25th - 29th September 2023);
- selection of the **GANIL PhD prize** (awarded at the Colloque);
- advise on selection of recipients of GANIL **Visiting Scientist** (VS) programme;
- propose topics for discussion at meetings of the **Scientific Council** (SC).

The detailed discussion of each of these points can be found below.

GCM

The next GCM should be held in 2024, in principle in the autumn (last edition: October 2022). The GUEC is responsible for its organisation, with the two local members (HS and JF) being the local organisers.

GAN.DIR: the aim of the GCM is for GANIL users to discuss future perspectives and projects.

In the wake of the last edition some feel that the GCM may be too long/dense, or that the combination GCM/Colloque GANIL (both of which occur biennially) is too much. A new format could be implemented for the next meeting, perhaps using parallel sessions in order to reduce the length of the meeting. It is for the GUEC to take charge of this redesign. A first meeting to begin planning the GCM2024 could take place during the Colloque GANIL in September.

GAN.DIR/GUEC: Up to now, there has been no report produced resulting from the discussions held during the GCM: this must change.

GUEC: It would be good to encourage more participation by external/international users, the last GCM was very francocentric!

GANIL PhD Prize

The call for this year's Prize (to be awarded during the Colloque) should go out soon – March 15th, with a deadline of 15th June. Looking at the previous call (<https://ganil2021.sciencesconf.org/resource/page/id/7>) it was written: “Nominations will be evaluated by a committee comprising representatives of the Scientific Council, the Programme Advisory Committee, the GANIL User Executive Committee, and the GANIL management.” After discussion with the previous secretary following the meeting, in 2021 the chair of the PAC and the chair of the SC were invited to participate in the selection of the nominated PhDs.

Other points to note in the previous call are:

- award is for PhDs “based on GANIL experiments or a theoretical study closely related to research at GANIL”, which in principle does not mean exclusively nuclear physics;
- only theses written in English will be considered;
- the last award (2021) concerned PhDs defended in 2019/20, so logically this year's prize should concern the years 2021/2.

GUEC: last time, the only PhDs nominated were in nuclear physics.

As can be seen above, other fields were not excluded by the call. This may be a problem of communication around the call for nominations – the last time the PhD prize and its call appeared exclusively on the website for the Colloque GANIL. The next call should be given a wider audience, starting with its appearance on the main GANIL website and communicated to all users via the Community Portal.

GAN.DIR (FF) will prepare a draft call to be discussed with the GUEC before distribution.

Concerning GANIL PhDs, GAN.DIR informs the GUEC that an on-going survey of PhDs being conducted in connection with the facility indicates that there are currently 85 PhDs in preparation – but the figure may in fact be somewhat higher, as not all those contacted (experiment spokespersons) have replied (this especially concerns interdisciplinary subjects).

In future, the goal is to include a question concerning the PhD(s) associated with each experiment in the (possibly on-line) end-of-experiment survey completed by each spokesperson.

GUEC: suggests extending current survey to a mailshot via the Portal, as the people most concerned i.e. the students themselves must be registered on the Portal if they have participated in an experiment at GANIL?

Visiting Scientist (VS) Programme

GAN.DIR informs the GUEC that the budget of the VS programme for 2024 runs to 24 months, to be shared among scientists who wish to spend between 2 and 6 months at GANIL. The call for applications should go out at the end of June.

GUEC: why, up to now, has the VS programme not included non-nuclear physicists?

GAN.DIR: in principle, it should be possible to open the programme to interdisciplinary studies: the draft call, including both nuclear and non-nuclear fields of research, will be discussed with the GUEC before publication.

Scientific Council (SC)

A meeting of the SC is held every year (the last was in January 2023). The policy of GAN.DIR is to limit the number of topics in order to discuss in greater detail. GAN.DIR expects the GUEC to propose topics for the SC, reflecting the users' needs, for example regarding investments in new detection or target systems, etc. As an example of this approach, the topics to be put on the agenda for the last SC (in December) were discussed at the GCM which preceded it (in October).

Questions/Suggestions from the GUEC

1. The GUEC remarks that in order to aid in the organisation of experiments into campaign obviously requires it to be aware of any and all upcoming proposals. Although the idea of having a GUEC representative in each collaboration's PREPAC meeting appears unrealistic, the GUEC will at least try to use any contacts they have in different collaborations as "eyes and ears" on the ground. Also any information the GAN.DIR can provide is obviously useful: for the moment, GAN.DIR is aware of two major campaigns/experiments in 2023 and 2024 which may require some arbitration, one concerning the use of MUGAST, the other the commissioning experiment of S3/SIRIUS which will require substantial beam line modification on LISE and may be incompatible with MUGAST campaign in 2024.

2. The GUEC suggests the use of an on-line version of the end-of-experiment survey in order to facilitate the feedback from the users. Such a system will shortly be implemented at LNL (Legnaro). GAN.DIR informs the GUEC that such a project was initially foreseen at GANIL, but for the moment the highest priority is to include the interdisciplinary PAC proposals into the on-line system used for nuclear experiments at GANIL for some years, XPGAN. Once completed, the setting up of an on-line feedback mechanism will be mandatory. The GUEC suggests to benefit from the experience gained at Legnaro in this endeavour.
3. The GUEC signals a recurrent problem with communication concerning beam development at GANIL. Information on the GANIL website is sparse and/or unreliable concerning the availability of certain (especially exotic) new beams. The GUEC suggests to improve this situation rapidly by, for example:
 - sending information to all users registered on the Portal;
 - or putting regular (and visible!) updates on the GANIL website.

| ACTIO N | WHAT | WHO | DEADLINE |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| A.1 | Begin planning for GCM2024, possibly with new format | GUEC | Colloque GANIL (September 2023) |
| A. 2 | Send draft call for PhD prize to GUEC for discussion | GAN.DIR | Before 15 th March (date of call) |
| A. 3 | Send draft call for Visiting Scientist programme (including non-nuclear physicists) to GUEC for discussion | GAN.DIR | Before end of June (date of call) |
| A. 4 | Configure the generic email address ' guec@ganil.fr ' to forward users' e-mail to the GUEC members' e-mail | GAN.DIR/ GUEC.SE C | 1 st March 2023 |
| A. 5 | Fix dates for next GUEC meeting in/around April 2023 | GUEC.CH AIR/ GUEC.SE C | 15 th March 2023 ? |