

Membership of Poland in ESRF

Starting from year 2004, Poland is an Associated Member of the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) in Grenoble, France. Nevertheless, one should remember that this is not given us for ever. In July 2006, a three-years project for financing the participation of Poland at the level of 1% of ESRF budget was approved by Ministry of Science and Poland joined 25 European countries (including Israel) belonging to ESRF. Since that date, for the scientists from Polish academic and scientific institutions applications for beamtime at the ESRF experimental stations became possible. Prof. K. Jablonska was the leader of the project which was allocated at the Institute of Physics Polish Academy of Science in Warsaw. This project ended in June 2009. The web page of the Polish membership in ESRF can be found at http://info.ifpan.edu.pl/esrf/Local_Publish/, where all useful information about the project are collected.

In order to get financing of Polish contribution to ESRF for next two years, it was necessary to apply for funds to Ministry of Science and High Education in the beginning of 2009. In the application, a report from the project presenting the scientific output from the experiments performed at ESRF had to be prepared. In the Table 1 and histogram (see Fig. 1) the readers can find information about the interest of Polish scientists to the use of ERSF in number of shifts applied from all countries and from Poland and number of shifts available at ESRF and allocated for Polish scientists. As one can see, there is an interest in Polish scientific community in use of this source of radiation and we are quite successful in getting access to ESRF.

Table 1. Shifts allocated for Poland.

Year	All applications	Applications from Poland		Available in ESRF	Allocated for Poland	
	<i>shifts</i>	<i>shifts</i>	<i>percent</i>	<i>shifts</i>	<i>shifts</i>	<i>percent</i>
2006/II	15 570	364	2.3%	6 852	180	2.6 %
2007	29 959	598	2.0%	13 681	240	1.75%
2008	31 105	661	2.1%	13 836	204	1.5 %

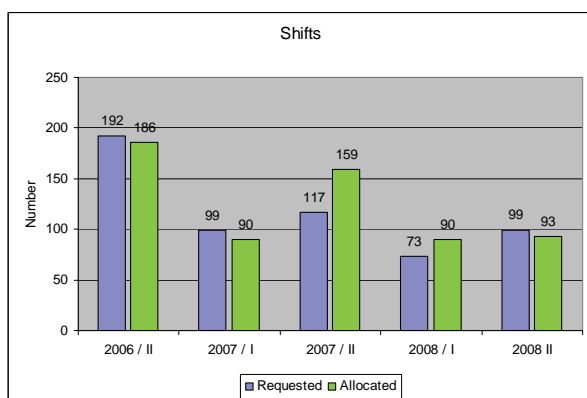


Figure 1. Time evolution of shifts requested (left) and allocated (right) for Poland.

Moreover, the Ministry has asked for various details concerning the use of ESRF; we provided them with the list of institutions contributing in the projects and the corresponding numbers of used shifts. 40 institutions participated in the applications but the final number of beneficent was lower as not all projects have been accepted. In many cases in one project several institutions participated.

We have been asked also to present a list of publications resulting from performed experiments together with the corresponding journal impact factors as well as a list of conference presentations, doctoral theses *etc.* Unfortunately, the lack of answers from project participants (despite several reminders sent by e-mail) led to a risk of failure of the continuation of financing. I would like to thank Wojciech Paszkowicz for his extensive searching of internet and databases and collecting information about 84 papers published from experiments performed at ESRF. Only due to reporting of so successful output from the ESRF project the approval was received and we are happy to inform that the Ministry has decided to extend the project for next two years. In 2011 it will be necessary to apply again and to again prove that the funds spent for Polish contribution give reasonable scientific profit. Therefore, I would to ask all of ESRF users to remember about regular visiting the web page of the project and to systematically inform us about all papers, doctoral theses and conference presentations with contribution of data collected at ESRF. In all published information the grant ESRF/73/2006 must be explicitly acknowledged. Following this way and providing the data on publications is crucial for the further access to ESRF. The access to ESRF, although limited and concerning a light source of specific characteristics, is even more important considering fact that policy of the European Union is directed towards strong limitation of the open access to large facilities. So both, the national light sources and the experimentalists using them are expected to loose the financing which helped them in the first decade of 21st century. Moreover, one of machines, DORIS III synchrotron in Hamburg, will be closed in 2012. Unfortunately, the number of beamlines at the replacing Petra ring will be much smaller.

It is a pleasure for me to inform you that Poland being the associated member, for the first time has a representation in the Scientific and Advisory Committee of ESRF. For the three years turn Prof. Mariusz Jaskólski (Poznań) was elected in May 2009 as a representative of all associated members. Moreover, at the 51th ESRF Council meeting in June 2009, it was approved that an associated country can be owner of a national beamlines at ESRF (so called CRG stations). Therefore, new possibilities are in front of us. All is in our hands!!!

K. Jablonska