

Dear Reader,

This Newsletter is intended for all SPS members, researchers, industries, students, interested specialists and physics friends. Feel free to share this Newsletter within your community, and follow this [link](#) if you want to add a person to our mailing list.

If you wish to give your contribution with news or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: margherita.boselli@cern.ch

Kind regards,

Margherita Boselli

WHAT'S NEW IN SWITZERLAND

SPS Annual Meeting – don't miss the registration

The next [SPS Annual Meeting](#) is approaching, it will take from 9 to 13 September 2024 at the Campus Centre of ETH Zurich.

The program is finalised and the [registration](#) is open until **15 August 2024**.



SPS Communications – July 2024

The **latest issue** of the Society's journal, **SPS Communications – SPG Mitteilungen**, has been distributed to all members. The pdf version will soon be available on our website. It contains several interesting articles and the detailed programme of the SPS Annual Meeting. Worth mentioning are an article on the future gravitational wave detection facility, the Einstein Telescope, an exciting report on the final of the 2024 Young Physicists Tournament, which took place in Zurich on 2-6 April 2024, and an article on the project "Youth@STEM4SF - Youth at STEM for sustainable future" promoted by Dr Barbora Bruant Gulejova. To learn more about this project, we encourage you to watch the interview Barbora Bruant Gulejova gave to RTS, available [here](#).

The 2024 edition of "Nuit de la Science"

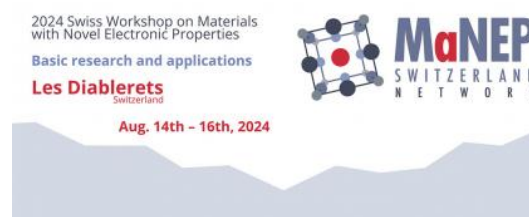
["La Nuit de la Science"](#) is a science festival held every two years in Geneva. The 2024 edition focused on "Cycles". It was a weekend dedicated to exploring, discussing, understanding, laughing and marvelling at scientific progress and challenges. Participants had the opportunity to interact with specialists from local universities and scientific institutions and explore various scientific phenomena and their consequences. Interactive exhibits, talks and activities explored the cyclical processes that govern our world, from the sun's daily journey to the intricate mechanisms of photosynthesis in plants. The event successfully combined education and entertainment, making science accessible and fun for all ages.



Image: Martina D'Arco at the stand of "La Nuit de la Science" organised by the University of Geneva.

2024 MANEP Swiss Workshop

The **2024 edition of the Swiss Workshop on Materials with Novel Electronic Properties (MANEP)** will take place in **Les Diablerets** from **14 to 16 August 2024**. This meeting, now in its 13th edition, brings together researchers based in Switzerland working in the field of materials with novel electronic properties.



The workshop will cover the following topics: applications, material growth, out of equilibrium physics, oxide interfaces, quantum magnetism, 2D and 3D quantum materials, and superconductivity.

More information is available [here](#).

WHAT'S NEW IN THE WORLD

Celebrating the work of Georges Lemaître

The pioneering work of **Georges Lemaître**, which formed the basis of our current understanding of cosmology, is receiving increasing attention from the scientific community. In 2019, our Society organised a [symposium](#) to celebrate Lemaître's scientific impact and personality on the occasion of his 125th anniversary.



During his career, Lemaître was President of the [Pontifical Academy of Sciences](#), a role he held from 1960 to 1966. The **2024 Lemaître Conference** was held at the Vatican Observatory and all the contributions are available [here](#).

WHAT'S NEW IN ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

2024 ESSRI Conference

The 2024 edition of the **Workshop on Energy Sustainable Science at Research Infrastructures Facilities (ESSRI)** will take place in Madrid on 25-27 November 2024. It will be the seventh ESSRI workshop and follows



a series of events hosted by different institutions since 2011. The main objective of this event is to identify the challenges and discuss strategic plans to develop and implement sustainable solutions in research infrastructures. More information is available [here](#) and a full report of the conference will be published at the end of the year.

SCNAT report on critical materials for the energy transition

The Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) has recently published a very interesting [report](#) summarising experts' concerns about the risks associated with the international supply of **critical materials for the energy transition**, discussing the implications and challenges for Switzerland, a country heavily dependent on imports of these materials, and making recommendations.





DDPS starts four new action plans for the environment

On 27 June, the **Federal Department of Defence, Population Protection and Sports (DDPS)** announced the adoption of [four different plans](#) to strengthen its commitment to environmental protection. These four action plans, approved by the President of the Confederation, Viola Amherd, are called "Education for the Environment", "Air Protection", "Water" and "Soil and Contaminated Sites". They contain 54 measures which demonstrate the will of the DDPS to protect water, air and soil and to educate the population in environmental protection.

WHAT'S NEW IN DEI

#WeTechTogether 2024 Conference

On 27 and 28 September 2024, Technopark Zurich will host Switzerland's largest conference on diversity and inclusion in technology: **#WeTechTogether**. It is the 6th edition of this event and will bring together women experts in STEM fields with a general public interested in learning more about science and technology.



Do not hesitate to visit the [event's website](#) to find out more.

GirlsGoMINT – motivating girls in high school for MINT studies

Recently, there have been an increasing number of initiatives aimed at making physics more attractive to girls at secondary school level. One such initiative is [GirlsGoMint](#), run by the Kantonsschule Baden, an initiative of the [intercantonal project MINT-Frauenetzwerk](#) project, which aims to increase the proportion of women in MINT subjects (mathematics, computer science,



natural sciences and technology) in high school and the world of work. [The programme at Kantonsschule Baden](#) consists of four events spread over the year. At the end of June, Heidi Potts, one of the members of the SPS DEI Commission, had the opportunity to contribute to the "**Mach mit**" event and lead a workshop together with her colleague Natasha Tomm from Zurich Instruments. During the workshop, ten young women had the opportunity to "see like a bat" using ultrasonic transducers and to send secret messages using a quantum cryptography protocol based on light polarisation. "It was fantastic to meet high school girls who are interested in science, to experience their curiosity to understand new concepts and to share our experiences as female physicists working in high-tech industries. I wish them all the best in their career choices - hopefully in physics," says Heidi. The event also included a break during which a high school chemistry teacher performed some fascinating experiments with liquid nitrogen, while everyone enjoyed freshly made ice cream - mint-flavoured, of course.

Image from Heidi Potts.

The Swiss Physical Society (SPS) unites persons interested in physics from university, schools, research, development and industry. The SPS promotes the scientific exchange of ideas in Switzerland and with its international environment.

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