

Minutes of the Board meeting 2025-01 on 18 March 2025

Time of the meeting: Tuesday, 18 March 2025 from 13:00 to 16:00

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1. Welcome and agenda

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

2. Apologies and Proxy votes

Board members with voting rights (as of 1 March 2024): 75, Present (including ZOOM): Antusch, Baudis, Braccini, Caminada, Canelli, Crivelli, Donegà, Greljo, Golling, Kilminster, Kirch, Isidori, Lauss, Marchevski, Marinkovic, Montaruli, Müller, Penning, Piegsa, Radoslav, Schneider, Schramm, Serra, Sfyrla, Shchutaska, Signer, Spira, Sanchez-Nieto, Sgalaberna, Sidel, Signer, Soares Dos Santos, Spira, Wallny.

Other participants: Benelli (Admin.), Stocker (Obs. SERI)

Apologies: F. Blanc, C. Grab, HP. Beck, A. De Cosa.

Proxy: Klaus Kirch for *Malte Hildebrandt*, Tobias Golling for *Anna Sfyrla*, Michael Spira for *Stefan Ritt*, Saverio Braccini for *Michele Weber*, Adrian Signer for *Peter Stoffer*, Rainer Wallny for *Anna Soter*

Quorum: 24 votes (= 1/3 of the Board members; Art. 24.1 Statutes); voters present: 34 present + 6 proxies = 40 -> The quorum is reached

3. Minutes of the last meeting (2024-03 [October 2024]): minutes approved.

Ralph Eichler

The CHIPP Board sincerely thank Ralph Eichler for his invaluable contributions and many years of dedicated service to the CHIPP Prize committee.

DECISION ITEMS

Closure of the 2024 Accounts

The Chair reminds that CHIPP, as member of SCNAT, must deliver an annual report to this organization and that therefore the format of the CHIPP annual activity report is based on the SCNAT format. The very first draft of the annual report is available on the reserved CHIPP directory. Angela asks the Board members to please check the entries of their own institutes regarding CHIPP members acting as official delegates to international organisations if there were changes with respect to 2023. It will be possible to update the document until the end of April. Please send input to Angela.

Annual Accounts 2024

The Chairman briefly presents the main income and expenditures of the profit and loss statements. The incomes amount to 171'305 CHF and the expenses to 165'032 CHF, resulting in a benefit of 6'273.- CHF. This is reflected in the balance sheet by a corresponding increase in assets from 43'060 CHF at the end of 2023 to 49'334 CHF at the end of 2024. Angela and Susanne Hodler performed the accounts independently. They were in full agreement, and the documents presented to the auditors were the ones of Ms. Hodler.

Auditor's Report

The audit took place on the 4 March 2025 via ZOOM with two auditors – Saverio Braccini (Uni Bern) & Steven Schramm (UniGe) in the presence of Angela Benelli (administrator), and Susanne Hodler (accountant, SCNAT). According to the auditors, the statements fairly represent the financial position of CHIPP, have been prepared with care and comply with statutory requirements. The auditors corrected some missing links to the invoices in the accounting documents.

The Board votes: 34 Yes, 1 Abs

- approves the CHIPP Annual Report 2024 to be made publicly accessible on the CHIPP website;
- approves the annual accounts, the balance sheet, and the profit and loss statement for 2024;
- formally discharges the CHIPP EB and the CHIPP administration for the year 2024, expressing at the same time its thanks and appreciation for the careful accounting.

→ Admin.: to make the report accessible on the CHIPP website

CHIPP Activities 2026

Every year in August CHIPP presents to the SCNAT the funding requests for the following year and only in the CHIPP Board meeting in October are the activities usually planned for the year approved.

The CHIPP activities for the year 2026 approved by the Board for which the SCNAT support will be asked are:

- Zuoz School 2026
- IPPOG -Membership fee for International Particle Physics Outreach Group (IPPOG) Collaboration
- Dialog -Scientific articles from Barbara Warmbein and Alexandra Nelson
- 2026 Swiss Summer Student Particle Physics Program (put together by Luigi Marchese with ETH, EPFL, Geneva, UZH, Bern)
- Workshop/School organised by the ECR? To be studied

Marko Pesut expressed the ECRs' interest in organizing dedicated days around the plenary, during which discussions on the outcomes of the European Strategy could take place.

Events funded during 2025:

- Winter School 2025 12000 CHF from SCNAT and 3000 CHF CHIPP
- IPPOG - Membership fee 2800 CHF from SCNAT
- Dialog – Articles from B. Warmbein & Aleksandra Nelson 10000 CHF from SCNAT
- Swiss Summer School 9000 CHF from SCNAT
- Strategy Workshop first meeting Café/lunch Feb'25 3000 CHF CHIPP
- Strategy Workshop 9 May second meeting - room Unitobler 208 CHF
- ESG drafting session in December - perhaps up to 3000 CHF
- Fast Machine Learning for Science Conference 2025 1000 CHF

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. CHIPP Functions & Tasks 2026 (info for nominations)

The chairman reports the functions and tasks that need renewal or a new candidate for the term starting in January 2026:

- EB: Ben & Tobias need to be replaced for 2026, Paolo & Michael in 2027
- CHIPP outreach & education deputy (currently Katharina is chair, with no deputy)
- Computer group chair: Mauro Donegà to be replaced
- IPPOG: Katharina extended
- Plenary ECFA 3 years: Annapaola De Cosa is current & could be extended
- ECFA ECR: Elisabeth Niel to be replaced
- Observer from CHIPP to CSR cosmic space research: Xin Wu extended
- APPEC General Assembly sci. delegate: Teresa Montaruli to be replaced

We will start the opening of nominations for the above positions EB, CHIPP outreach deputy, Computer group chair, Plenary ECFA, ECFA ECR, APPEC.

5. Swiss inputs to Strategy – approval document

The board reviewed the 2025 meeting schedule in light of the European Strategy update process. A strategy meeting is planned for May 9th, situated between the March and May input deadlines, and another board meeting in October to coincide with the release of the physics briefing book in September. This October meeting may also serve to finalize 2026 activities and could potentially replace the usual December board meeting. There was general agreement that holding a meeting after the release of the briefing book would be useful, even if some content remains confidential.

Additionally, the board discussed updates to their strategy input document, particularly the role of the Einstein Telescope (ET). While not currently a flagship project, there was consensus that ET is growing in importance, with increasing engagement from Swiss researchers. The group debated the best wording to reflect this evolving priority and reviewed proposed revisions to the document, aiming to strike a balance between current status and future potential. Further refinements and textual edits are still being considered before the final vote on the document.

The group discussed how to frame statements in the European Strategy input document regarding the High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC), FCC, and potential shutdown optimizations. There were concerns that some language in the draft—particularly suggestions about shortening HL-LHC operations or postponing upgrades—might imply undervaluing current efforts or jeopardizing future plans, especially those involving the LHCb upgrade, which is not yet fully approved. CHIPP should express the importance of flexibility and awareness of broader planning dynamics, not proposing cuts or prematurely evaluating physics returns.

The group addressed how to respond to the European Strategy question regarding potential alternatives to the FCC. While earlier drafts suggested FCC as the most cost-effective option, concerns were raised that this could be misinterpreted—especially since technically cheaper alternatives do exist, including doing nothing. It was agreed that the statement should instead emphasize what would be lost scientifically and strategically if alternatives were pursued, rather than focusing only on relative costs.

The group agreed to reframe the message around the concept of integrated efficiency—highlighting that while FCC may have higher up-front costs, it delivers significantly more physics output per unit of time, making it more efficient and effective in the long run.

The wording of this section will be refined offline by a small group to better reflect these points, with care to avoid oversimplified or misleading cost comparisons.

The document was approved with four abstentions and one opposing vote, while agreeing to make final text adjustments in the coming days. A follow-up strategy meeting was scheduled for May 9 to revisit new inputs and assess whether further updates are needed by the next submission deadline.

Open Symposium Reminder: Registration is open for the European Strategy Open Symposium in Venice, taking place from June 23–27. Members were encouraged to attend.

6. Feedback received from the FLARE proposal evaluations

The group reviewed feedback received from the FLARE proposal evaluations, based on comments shared by CHIPP PIs. Key points included general satisfaction with the review questions, which were mostly clarifications but indicated a solid understanding of the experiments. Some reviewers raised concerns about PI involvement across multiple projects, the need for clear contingency plans if FLARE funding doesn't come through, and the justification for personnel roles. Importantly, institutional commitment was flagged as a valuable element to highlight, not only in financial terms but also via staff support, lab infrastructure, or equipment.

7. ECFA statistics

The meeting also addressed a survey request from Reiner Wallny, aiming to assess the size and structure of the Swiss particle physics community (students, staff, theory, experiment, technical roles, etc.). Despite some confusion over the requested format—especially between headcounts and FTEs—most institutions submitted their data, with Geneva still pending. There was general agreement that the data was sufficient for submission, though minor updates may still be added if they arrive in time.

8. ESG Drafting Session Dec 2025

CHIPP is organizing the Drafting Session for the European Strategy in December at Monte Verità, expecting around 80 participants from various European strategy and physics preparatory groups. A cost estimate has been received, but there's a funding shortfall of approximately 75,000 CHF. While CHIPP can only contribute a small amount (~3,000 CHF), additional support is anticipated from institutions and SERI. Funding options such as the SNSF Scientific Exchanges program are being explored, though it requires gathering CVs or publication lists (or possibly LinkedIn PDFs) for non-Swiss participants. Major costs stem from food and accommodation rather than room rental. Efforts are ongoing to secure additional funds and explore all available funding channels.

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. SPS/OPG joint annual meeting 2025 in Vienna

Lesya Shchutka

Scheduled for August 18–22 at the University of Vienna.

Abstract submissions will open soon, with a deadline of May 1. Registration deadline will follow.

There will be no CHIPP plenary, but parallel sessions will be held. Special events include an Energy Day, career symposium, and public lectures by Thomas Fuchs and another speaker. Travel support will be available for early-career researchers.

10. CHIPP Winter School 2025 report

Björn Penning

Björn presented a summary of the Winter School, which hosted 23 students, including 3 international participants and ~40% female representation.

Topics ranged from classical colliders to machine learning and gravitational waves. Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with high praise for lecture quality and student talks. The hotel provided good value and has been pre-booked for January 2027 to lock in rates.

11. New professorships at CHIPP institutes: report from each institute

Angela reminded everyone to send names of any new professors to avoid spelling errors in communications

12. A.O.B.