



The Abdus Salam

**International Centre
for Theoretical Physics**



MINUTES of the STEP COMMITTEE MEETING held on 26 May 2021 via MS Teams

A meeting of the Committee on ICTP/IAEA Sandwich Training Educational Programme (STEP) was called on 26 May 2021 by Nadia Binggeli. It was organized as an online meeting .

The meeting was attended by:

N. Binggeli	(ICTP, Trieste, Chairperson)
S. Alimanovic	(ICTP, Trieste, Secretary)
P. Stegnar	(JSI, Ljubljana)
M. Denecke	(NAPC, IAEA, Vienna)
D. Ridikas	(NAPC, IAEA, Vienna)
C. Ferreira	(TCPC, IAEA, Vienna)
F. Kucharski	(OEA, ICTP, Trieste)
Lisa Vaccari	(Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste)

The meeting started at 10:00 am and was held via MS Teams.

After welcoming and thanking the participants, N. Binggeli presented a short summary of the present situation.

From the beginning of the STEP Programme in 2003, 221 fellowships have been awarded. So far, 148 fellows obtained their Ph.D.

Presently there are 25 STEP active fellows, i.e. the fellows who still have at least one visit available. Out of 25, 14 are women; which is 53% of the total number).

The 25 fellowships are funded as follows:

10 by IAEA

15 by ICTP

and have the following geographical distribution:

3	from Africa
11	from Asia
9	from Latin America and Caribbean
2	Eastern Europe

33 students have already finished their visits and are in the process of completing their PhD at the home university and 15 have left the Programme without a Ph.D. Many of those who left the Programme enrolled in a PhD programme in a developed country.

N. Binggeli said that, for the present selection, 5 grants can be assigned under STEP while C. Ferreira indicated that 4 fellowships can be granted by IAEA-TC funds (plus 2 reserved).

The Committee then proceeded with the selection. The total number of applications was 73. A pre-selection had already been done using the online system, out of 73 candidates, 17 were shortlisted (indicated in color in the list of applicants in the Annex).

The Committee went through the 17 applications and produced the following priority list.

Fellows supported by IAEA [and suggested co-advisor]:

no. 55: TURSUNOVA Veronika (Kyrgyzstan); co advisor: I. Falnoga (JSI, Ljubljana)

no 59: FATHI Imane (Morocco); co advisor: R. Longo (UNITS, Trieste)

no. 67: NAZ Zahra (Pakistan); co-advisors: R. de Zorzi (UNITS) & A. Heroux (ELETTRA)

no. 8: LOPRESTI Raul (Argentina); co-advisor: M. Crespo (Mlab ICTP) – collaboration with IAEA Lab, Seibersdorf.

Reserved:

no. 30: FIAGBEDZI Emmanuel (Ghana); co-advisors: G. Sartor & M. Avanzo (CRO, Aviano) - in collaboration with R. Longo (UNITS)

no. 48: SADEGHI Mohammad (Iran); co-advisor: a suitable host center and co-adviser will be identified by R. Padovani - confirmation however will be needed to proceed.

Fellows supported by the ICTP [and suggested co-advisor(s)]:

no. 9: VIOTTI Ludmila (Argentina); co-advisor: R. Fazio (CMSP, ICTP)

no. 43: GHANBARI Farnaz (Iran); co-advisor: C. Arezzo (MATH, ICTP)

no 37: SAHU Purushottam (India); co-advisor: S. Petcov (SISSA)

no. 15: PIRES DE MORAES SANTOS Stella (Brazil); co-advisor: B. Nava (STI, ICTP)

no. 39: UTADIYA Subhash (Brazil); co-advisor: H. Cabrera Morales (STI, ICTP)

Reserved:

no. 33: LINGANNAN Govindaraj (India); co-supervisor: B. Joseph (Elettra);

no. 64: OJO Olakunle (Nigeria); co-advisors: S. Radicella & B. Nava (STI, ICTP)

no. 71: IRAMBONA Sosthene (Rwanda); project needs clarifications.

The applicant no. 33 LINGANNAN Govindaraj from India, will be contacted by the STEP office with the suggestion to apply to the programme 'Training and Research in Italian Laboratories' (TRIL) (he will be informed he is in the alternate list for STEP).

N. Binggeli said that ICTP is organizing many activities online, so it would be useful to give STEP fellows the opportunity to attend virtual activities organized by ICTP (seminars, diploma programme courses, colloquiums, workshops, etc).

P. Stegnar said that also JSI offers many virtual activities and covering many fields of study which may be useful for the STEP fellows.

STEP office will contact JSI in order to put interested STEP fellows in the JSI list of virtual activities.

The list of all applicants and the decisions made for them are reported in the Annex.

The next STEP selection meeting is planned to take place in May 2022.

The meeting ended at 11.30 am