

Implementation committee meeting

February 17th 2025

Executive minutes (for Virgo-wide dissemination)

Attendance:

U. Bassler, M. Carpinelli, M. Pallavicini, J. D'Hondt, A. Rocchi, F. Carbognani, G. Gemme, M. Was, T. Li, V. Poireau, V. Sordini

Notes

1 - Ursula gives a presentation on committee matters

- Point and news about implementation bureau works since last implementation full committee meeting.
- Introduction of today's agenda
- Proposal for **next steps**
 - VirgoLab document discussed (and hopefully approved) by the March 18th EGO council meeting.
 - After the approval, the implementation bureau's main mission is over. The implementation committee will keep meeting monthly to follow the work of proto EB in setting up things following the new proposed structure.
 - A call for joining VirgoLab should be circulated shortly after the March EGO council meeting.
 - Reminder that the EGO Council needs to decide about a call for the EGO director and Program Officer.

2 - Massimo presents some news from the proto EB

- VirgoLab projects follow 3 phases: upgrade, commissioning and running. Phases are periodic. The proposal should mention the possibility to have one project for the current "N" upgrade and another for the following "N+1" upgrade.
 - (All) discussion on the pertinence of having the N+1 upgrade fully integrated as a project within the VirgoLab. In particular the point of view is brought forward that R&D activity should at first live in the collaboration and become a project in scope of the VirgoLab only when mature enough and has a chance to be installed in Virgo (although the boundary will likely be difficult to draw).

- General agreement that there is a need for assessment of technical readiness before an activity becomes “in scope”.
- There is also agreement that a clear feedback from the EGO council is needed on this subject, based on the proposal.
- Discussion and disagreement on the matter of what on site presence (percentage of time) should be required for coordinators. General consensus that things have to be done reasonably and presence on site for different roles can depend on what is happening on the detector.
 - Discussion on previous experiences, possible tools for helping mobility (secondment) and general reminder of the importance of on site activity to train new generation of experts.
 - Action item for the EGO director to propose a baseline model for on site presence for the different coordinators to the EGO council - input from the council is expected.

3 - Viola gives a presentation on ideas for VirgoLab membership

- Proposal based on discussions with Gianluca, Viola, implementation bureau and proto EB
- General idea is that a foundational MoA for contributions to the VirgoLab is signed by the national funding agencies with EGO, VirgoLab members are defined in the MoAs with funding agencies. The single group's contributions will be attached to that MoA.
- Representation within VirgoLab similar to what is in Virgo: minimal SVAC per group to be represented in the board of PIs.
- Some novelties wrt Virgo: possibly add a minimal average SVAC per author; people not associated to groups can be represented by national liaison (equivalent of what is now national representatives in Virgo, but it is pointed out that the name “national representative” is confusing and should be avoided), national liaison might have voting rights if they represent enough people.
- Agreement that it is good to have a system that also welcomes commitment of groups to specific deliverables, this will be detailed in the MoAs and naturally will also involve some SVACs.
- News: the Virgo collaboration has approved a modification of the bylaws that will protect it from an administrative void when the VirgoLab is created (VirgoLab organisation will prevail).

4 - Alessio presents new from the project management plan

- Discussion on the QA/QC position, and of the proposal to take advantage of a CNRS contract to get professional help from a private firm (successfully used for KM3NET).

5 - Massimo presents the status of EGO person power and resources

- 10 new people are expected to be hired at EGO in 2025. A dedicated study for personpower for Virgolab is needed and planned, including resources and recruitment plans at EGO and Member Labs.
- Discussion on technical aspects of the VirgoLab budget, which part will go through EGO, which part directly to Member Labs in case of specific deliverable. Importance of transparency and bookkeeping. The fraction of the EGO budget that goes to Virgolab will be decided by the council.
- Agreement on the importance that the upgrade TDR should also come with an analysis of the personpower needed (including existing and non-existing person power, and fraction of people in temporary positions).

6 - Tjonnie gives a presentation about ET/EGO-Virgo relations and exchanges, calling for stronger cooperation and synergy.

- Some discussions have already started between the Virgo and ETC leadership on the possibility of having (part of the) Virgo_nEXT program as a synergic effort of Virgo and ET.
- Discussion on the existing entities and their interaction (EGO council, ET BGR, ETO) and on the possibility of having a sort of ETlab within EGO - it is specified explicitly that the ETLab would run on additional budget and not get into competition with VirgoLab.

7- Ursula describes the modified organisational proposal to be submitted to the council for feedback. Timeline:

- Bureau to circulate a version of the proposal to the full implementation committee by Monday March 24th.
- Implementation committee to send feedback by February 28th.
- New version to be sent to the EGO council on Monday March 3rd.