Minutes of the ISPyB Steering Committee meeting of 30th of June 2020

Attendees: Uwe Muller (uwe.mueller@helmholtz-berlin.de), Manfred Weiss (manfred.weiss@helmholtz-berlin.de), Thomas Ursby (thomas.ursby@maxiv.lu.se), Gerard Bricogne (gb10@globalphasing.com), Gleb Bourenkov (gleb@embl-hamburg.de), Thomas Schneider (thomas.schneider@embl-hamburg.de), Johanna Hakanpaa (johanna.hakanpaa@desy.de), Ana Carolina Zeri (ana.zeri@lnls.br), Annie Heroux (annie.heroux@elettra.eu), Dave Hall (David.Hall@Diamond.ac.uk), Gordon Leonard (leonard@esrf.fr), Majid Ounsy (majid.ounsy@synchrotron-soleil.fr), Roeland Boer (rboer@cells.es)
Not present: Bo-Yi Lao (iao.zeno@nsrrc.org.tw)

ISPyB backend unification

The efforts of the EMBL (Ivars Karpics) were highly valued and recognized as being a viable way forward for the unification of the backend. GBo indicated that efforts to continue the new backend model will continue for the purpose of representing the time-resolved SSX experiments in the data model. Once this part of the process has matured sufficiently, the scientific committee of the collaboration will be involved. When a broadly supported model can be presented, efforts of other collaborators will then be requested for final implementation. GL, DH and GBr stressed the importance of achieving agreement across the full collaboration before proceeding to the implementation.

Each site is invited to send GBo proposals of nominated scientists to participate in the shaping of the data model. Wide dissemination of the outcome will then be required for final acceptance of all partners.

The expressed need for representing these experiments at various sites was discussed, and the concomitant need for/lack of available resources.

DH reiterated that at the last (Feb 2020) meeting at Hamburg it was agreed to develop the new backend unification with an example front-end development to be agreed post-meeting. Post-meeting it was agreed to work on data collection groups.

Implications of home lab incorporation

Several collaborator sites and home labs are in the process of streamlining sample information exchange through ISPyB. The implications of the involvements of the home labs was discussed. DH asked if there were specific requests. GL noted the request by the EMBL Grenoble's HTX platform for uploading/streamlining the exchange of safety data, commenting that this would not be straightforward given the safety approval protocols currently in place at ESRF and the lack of SMIS/ESRF resources. Thus, while this may be desirable, ESRF does not see this request as high priority. RB noted that future requests from home labs of uploading data to ISPyB are likely. Safety information and evaluation are very different for each site and is very difficult to streamline between sites. Other requests will be dealt with in time.

A discussion took place concerning whether home labs (i.e. Oulu, Grenoble's HTX platform) should be full partners of the ISPyB Collaboration. The general consensus was that this idea should be reconsidered nearer the time of the renewal of the current Collaboration Agreement (2022).

TS noted that involvement of home labs may represent opportunities for generating additional funds. Instruct funds may be applicable in this context, other possibilities may present themselves.

Interest from the Beijing synchrotron

RB explained that the invited HEPS staff had expressed their continued interest by email. The interest of HEPS was in principle welcomed but was deemed politically sensitive.

Any organizational issues?

It was noted that maintenance and updating the email address lists are still an issue. It was suggested that the StC committee members that need an update on the current contents of the ISPyB mailing list should contact Gianluca Santoni (santoni@esrf.fr).

Any possible conflicts?

The possibility of a combined partnership of Chinese and Taiwanese institutions needs to be cleared up with the current Taiwanese partner NRRSC.

Any other issues

Towards the next MoU, it should be decided whether the collaboration should be extended to the ISPyB front end. It was also suggested to invite the Oulu observers formally into the collaboration.

Next and next-to-next mtg

At the MXCuBE StC mtg, a proposal was put forward to postpone the LNLS mtg until June 2021, date to be fixed. Marjolein Thunnissen and Uwe Muller offered to organize the next, virtual mtg, to be hosted at MAX-IV in two consecutive days between the 16-18th of November.

Meeting format

The suggestion of GBr at the MXCube StC mtg to include a combined session on data processing between the MXCuBE and ISPyB collaborators was reiterated. It was agreed to hold such a session at the next mtg of the MxCuBE/ISPyB Collaborations.