



Consortium Declaration

The advancement of Science on the discovery and characterisation of advanced materials, biomaterials and living matter is linked to the essential role played by Synchrotron Radiation (SR) and Free Electron Laser (FEL) user facilities. Europe has achieved global leadership in this field. European SR and FEL facilities serve a very broad scientific community, with more than 30,000 researchers in Europe and beyond, and attract some of the brightest minds worldwide. They serve many countries, facilitating multinational collaborations, and support a spectrum of disciplines that encompass fundamental and applied sciences, and innovative industrial applications; they provide answers to key societal challenges in areas such as health, environment, energy and communication; they educate and form the next generation of scientists, engineers and facility managers and administrators, and contribute strongly to the competitiveness of European science and industry, thus generating jobs and wealth.

The delegates of the SR and FEL user facilities in the EU and associated countries have decided to establish a strategic Consortium – the League of European Accelerator-based Photon Sources (LEAPS) – the primary goal of which is to actively and constructively ensure and promote the quality and impact of the fundamental, applied and industrial research carried out at their respective facilities.

The LEAPS Consortium is composed of the SR and FEL user facilities in Europe which adhere, via their signature, to the present Declaration (“**LEAPS Members**”).

The Consortium is represented by its General Assembly, which comprises the delegates of the respective LEAPS Members.

The General Assembly meets at least twice a year and elects its Chair among its members for a one-year period. It establishes the procedures of operation of the Consortium, agrees on common activities, formulates its actions and plans their execution with the support of a number of coordination, thematic, and *ad hoc* working groups, composed of staff from the LEAPS Members.



Participation in the activities of the Consortium by other entities may be considered by the General Assembly, which decides on the conditions of such participation and establishes the associated procedures for their implementation.

The LEAPS Consortium deploys its substantial collective knowledge, experience and expertise in SR and FEL science and technology, Research Infrastructure management, and service to scientific users and stakeholders to the greater benefit of European science and society. It further aims to play an integrating role for countries with less developed communities and infrastructure for research and innovation, in Europe and beyond.

The LEAPS Consortium thus aims to:

- 1) Encourage and facilitate discussion and exchange among its members on issues relevant to the shaping of future science and technology at accelerator-based light sources in a worldwide perspective, and involving as required other organisations which develop enabling technologies for SR and FEL user facilities.
- 2) Promote a collective strategy across European facilities.
- 3) Exchange with stakeholders and organisations such as the European Commission in all matters relevant to the development and sustainability of SR and FEL user facilities, with the objective of informing and shaping future policies.
- 4) Engage with current and new user communities to discuss their respective needs, with the objective of anticipating and meeting future challenges.
- 5) Strengthen interaction with industry, with the objective of striving towards an optimal exploitation of Synchrotron and FEL user facilities for industrial research and of developing and exploiting enabling technologies.
- 6) Develop and periodically update a landscape document, with the objective of outlining the impact of SR and FEL user facilities in the EU and associated countries and the developments required in order to address the scientific and societal challenges of the future.
- 7) Develop and periodically update roadmaps and action plans for key technologies.
- 8) Promote:
 - The standardisation of access procedures in the spirit of the [European Charter for Access to Research Infrastructures](https://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/2016_charterforaccessto-ris.pdf)¹;
 - The development of common performance indicators, including socio-economic impact indicators;
 - The principles associated with Open Science, including greater coherence in the development of data-policies, -handling, -storage, -analysis, and -access;
 - Education and training of students, scientists and facility staff;
 - Enhanced mobility and/or exchange of staff, with the objective of facilitating career development and of improving the availability of special skills;
 - Communication and outreach to inform and educate the general public.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/2016_charterforaccessto-ris.pdf