



European Laser Research Infrastructures serving Science and Industry

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WP 1

D1.1: 1st General Assembly

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About Lasers4EU

Lasers4EU is incorporating the major laser research infrastructures, in a large number of European member states, into a comprehensive virtual distributed laser research infrastructure that is offering to a broad user community, from academia and industry, access to an exceptional portfolio of technical and scientific capabilities. This unique set of instruments together with the specific scientific expertise at the host facilities allows Lasers4EU users to carry out high-level research in an extremely wide range of high-impact topics in life sciences, materials nano-processing, etc. Laser technology has experienced remarkable advances and breakthroughs during the last 60 years and is now a key innovation driver for highly diversified societal applications and products, thereby substantially contributing to economic growth and to solving challenges in the areas of health, environment and energy. Through its strategic approach, Lasers4EU aims to strengthen Europe's leading position and competitiveness. It facilitates long-term coordination of the laser research activities within the European Research Area and provides concerted and efficient services to scientific, industrial and medical researchers. The main objectives of Lasers4EU are to:

- provide coordinated access to high-quality services based on a coherent and comprehensive consortium of 27 leading European laser installations offering to users from academia as well as from industry cutting-edge performances at the forefront of the laser technologies,
- structure the European landscape of laser Research Infrastructure through enhanced access, extended geographical coverage, novel science diplomacy activities, improved synergies with other European networks and projects,
- increase European human resources in the field of laser science by implementing training activities towards researchers from new domains of science and technology and from geographical regions where laser communities are still less developed.

1 Objectives

The objective of WP 1 is to manage the overall project with respect to administrative, contractual, legal, financial, and technical issues to ensure highest quality of service and completing deliverables according to the time frame and budget foreseen. A particularly important issue is to monitor the progress of the project and the reporting to the project bodies in order to be able to take corrective action if necessary.

The aim of the annual meeting of the General Assembly of the project is to assess the progress of past activities, to decide on implementation plans for the following year and to create common understanding and awareness of the activities among all project participants.

2 First General Assembly Meeting

The first General Assembly meeting was held online on 4 September 2025 and was attended by 44 participants, representing almost all members in the project. Lasers4EU Scientific Coordinator Sylvie Jacquemot (CNRS-LULI) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. In her report, she provided an overview of the project's key objectives and activities, as well as progress achieved during the first year at both the management and implementation levels. She also conveyed to the partners the outcomes of a workshop on TNA under Horizon Europe INFRA-SERV projects and the experience of stakeholders and their feedback to policy.

3 WP1 Management

Neide Pedro reported on the first amendment to the Grant Agreement and consequent necessary changes in the Consortium Agreement. Daniela Stozno presented the composition and the nominations for the Industry Advisory Committee.

4 WP2 Communication and Outreach

The task leaders presented the progress achieved to date for each task. Key discussion points included:

• **Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation:**

Ramona Landgraf reported on the ongoing communication activities. Regular posting of partner profiles on LinkedIn has led to a steady increase in views, likes, and followers. As additional activities are implemented, the range of published content will be further diversified.

She also highlighted that two complementary webinar series are now established under Lasers4EU:

- The Lasers4EU Webinar Series, which explores topics at the intersection of laser science, research infrastructure, innovation, and research services.
- The Laserlab-Europe Talks, which present and promote research and applications enabled by laser-based technologies, fostering a better understanding of the links between research and innovation.

The Laserlab Forum newsletter continues under Lasers4EU, with two issues published each year. The first issue, *Lasers for Industry*, was released in June 2025, while the next issue, *Lasers for Catalysis*, will be published in December 2025.

• **Science Diplomacy and Outreach:**

Zsuzsanna Major reported on the creation of an online inventory platform for second-hand equipment. The rules governing the donation of decommissioned equipment have been agreed upon. She also outlined plans for the first User Meeting aimed at industrial users, to be held in May 2026 alongside the annual meeting of the Laserlab-Europe Association, with the goal of enhancing participation and visibility.

The presentations were followed by a discussion on the current status of the work package and the further development of its respective tasks and objectives.

5 WP3: Access

Sylvie Jacquemot, the chair of the Access Board, presented the Lasers4EU access programme and the contractual commitments.

The statistics show that the start of the access programme was a bit slow, but that, according to regular monitoring and forecasts, the initial delay is reducing and, if all scheduled and accepted projects are completed by M18, the delay will be made up. Overall there is a positive progress to be noted. Third country access is currently above the 20% limit in terms of days (>32%) and in terms of projects (>28%). It is positive that the international users are well distributed among the APIs and

not concentrating on a few ones, which demonstrates the attractiveness of the consortium. No action is to be taken now as usually this will balance out throughout the life time of the project.

User feedback is still at an early stage of collection, but the numbers are encouraging: a 61.3% response rate and an increase in satisfaction with the advice given to match users and APIs.

The next reporting on access experiments is planned for April 2026 and an update on the status of the access programme will be shared with partners in May 2026.

6 WP4: Cross-facility services

The work package leader, Joachim Hein, together with the task leaders, presented the progress achieved to date for each task. Key discussion points included:

- **Constraints identified during the first call for short-term R&D projects**, namely the limited budget, short project duration, and the requirement to comply with the open science mandate. To address these issues, the second call has been brought forward to November 2025 to allow more time for project implementation, with the possibility of additional co-funding from Laserlab-Europe AISBL.
- **Progress on the standardised performance assessment task**, including the establishment of a dedicated working group and the organisation of a thematic workshop. During the workshop it was clarified that performance assessment focuses on instruments rather than overall facility operation, and that the resulting protocols will serve as best-practice guidelines rather than mandatory standards due to the diverse nature of the labs in the consortium. In the second year, efforts will focus on developing shared protocols across at least three research fields, with labs organised into clusters led by designated researchers. The three proposed clusters are *Diffuse Correlation Spectroscopy*, *Transient Absorption*, and *Characterisation of Ultrashort Pulses*.
- **Advances in data management**, with a first version of the Data Management Plan (DMP) prepared and submitted as a deliverable in month 6. A consortium-wide survey has gathered information on existing data policies, the experience of APIs with DMPs for TNA users, and the quality of data produced during experiments. A FAIR network of facility representatives has been established to coordinate implementation, supported by a FAIR helpdesk providing ongoing guidance.

The presentations were followed by a discussion on the current status of each work package and

the further development of their respective tasks and objectives.

7 WP5: User Training

Panagiotis Loukakos, the work package leader, provided an update on the progress made so far across all tasks.

Lasers4EU **user training schools**, which combine theoretical and practical learning, started successfully. The first internal call resulted in four proposals, three of which were selected for funding with additional institutional or external co-funding. The *Women in Photonics workshop*, organised by Leibniz IPHT, has already taken place, while two further events, *High-Power Lasers for Industrial Applications* and the *Hands-on Course on MINDLAB*, are planned for October and November 2025.

The **pre-project training scheme** has also been implemented, enabling selected researchers to visit host facilities before their main access period. By month 12, nine pre-access training requests have been submitted. Although this remains below the expected target, actions have been agreed to strengthen promotion and by month 18, the numbers will be re-evaluated.

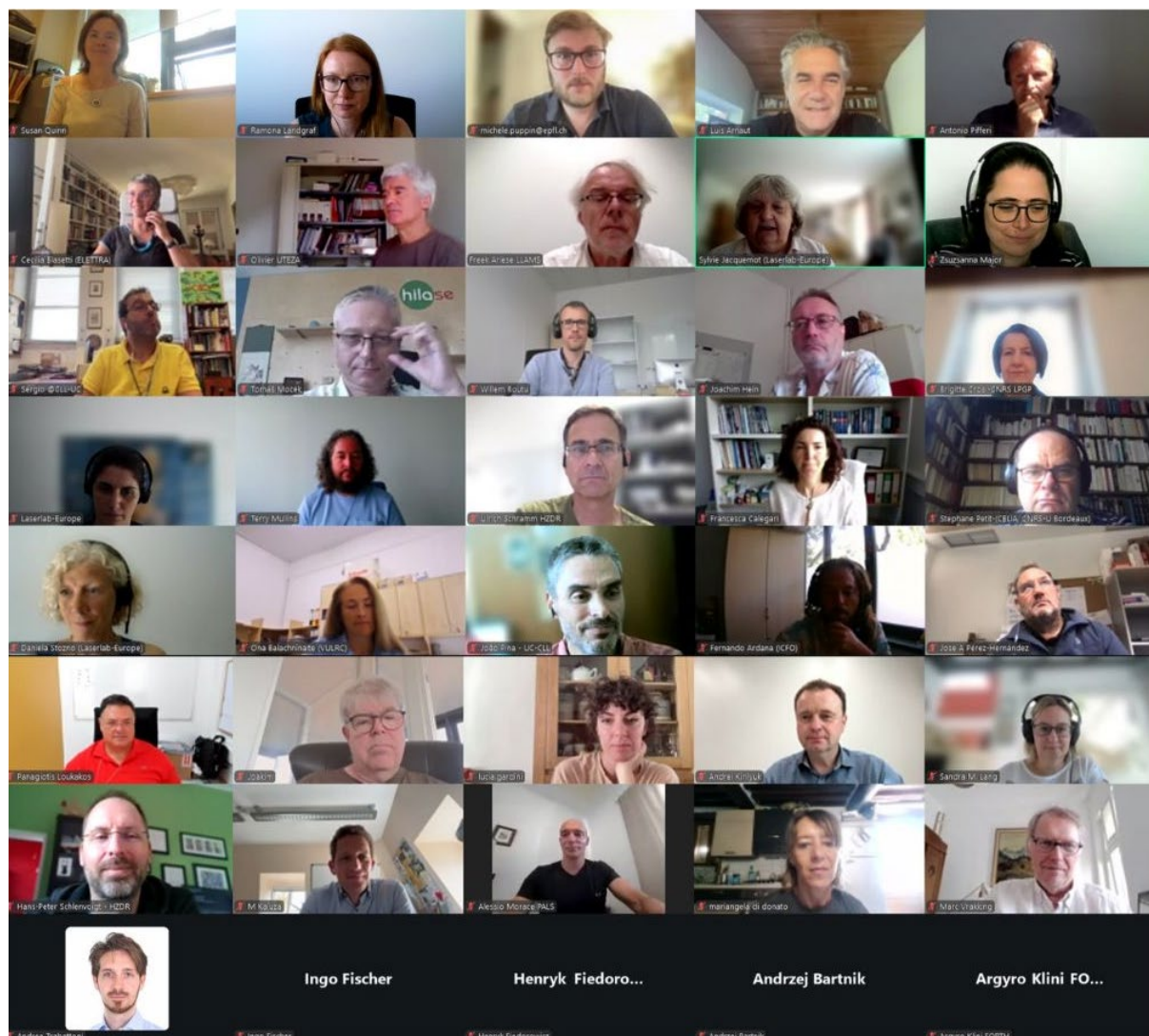
Panagiotis Loukakos reported significant progress in developing the **online pilot software tool** to support users from disciplines beyond core laser research. By month 12, major milestones had been achieved, including modelling material responses under various laser conditions, creating maps of laser parameters, testing AI-based predictive models, and developing a user-friendly Django interface.

8 Summary

The first Lasers4EU General Assembly Meeting was engaging and set a positive tone for the ongoing work, despite being held online, which offered fewer opportunities for discussion and interaction compared to an in-person meeting. However, the virtual format allowed for a high level of participation, as no travel was required.

Participants have successfully completed all required deliverables and milestones to date and demonstrated during the meeting that they are well prepared for the challenges of the second year. The meeting also provided a valuable opportunity for participants to learn more about the work packages in which they are not directly involved.

Figure 1. Group picture



9 Agenda

1. Welcome & formalities

Overview of the project - timetable

2. WP1: Management

1st amendment, financial guide, RP1

3. WP2: Communication & outreach (status & 2026 forecast)

3.1 promotional material, website, social media, newsletter

3.2 S&T and Lasers4EU webinars

3.3 Science diplomacy

3.4 User meetings

4. Access-related activities (status & 2026 forecast)

4.1 WP3: Access programme

4.2 Access routes: multi-instrument & industry

5. WP4: Cross-facility services (status & 2026 forecast)

5.1 Short-term R&D projects

5.2 Joint experiments

5.3 Staff exchanges

5.4 Standardised performance assessment

5.5 FAIRness

6. WP5: User training

6.1 User training schools

6.2 Pre-project training

6.3 Online software tools

7. AOB

7.1 2026 GA & associated events: “industry” user meeting, AISBL GA

7.2 2027 GA