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Work summary 2014

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Mid-term meeting review

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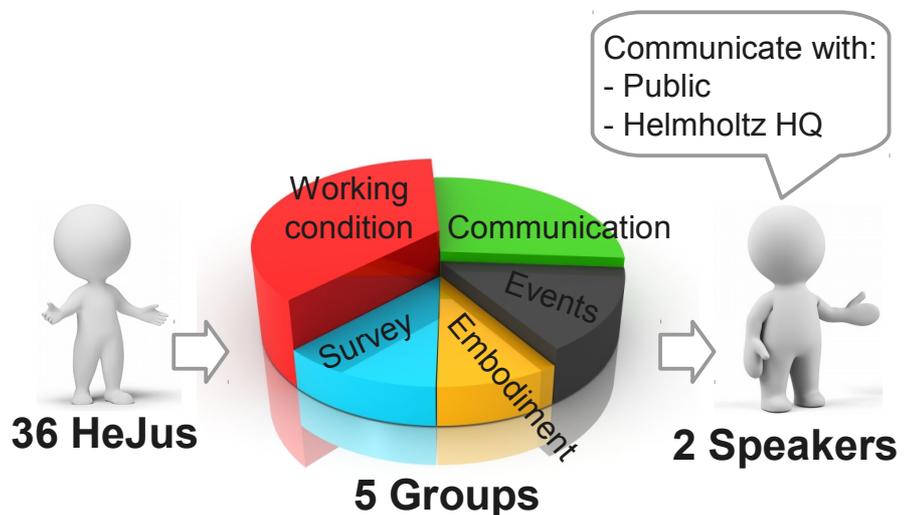
Blog



Helmholtz Juniors Website

Who are we?

The Helmholtz-Juniors (HeJu) were founded as an initiative for representing the interests of PhD candidates at all 18 Centres in the Helmholtz Association, Germany's largest non-university scientific organization. The Helmholtz-Juniors currently represent the interests of around 6000 doctoral students. Our primary goals are fostering exchange and networking among PhD students, improving the conditions and expanding the range of advanced training opportunities available within the Helmholtz Association.





Work Summary 2014

The HeJu, as a voice of PhD students at 18 Helmholtz Centres, is consistently dedicated to creating strong social network and supporting young researchers for their works and life during their PhD periods. In this year, HeJu has not only made great effort to promote traditional activities, but also proposed novel ideas and formed a new group. With their hard work during the whole year, achievements have been summarised here as a conclusion of 2014.

❖ The working conditions group aims to improve the actual work conditions for PhD students in all 18 Helmholtz centres. They have built tight contacts with the Max-Planck and Fraunhofer societies to exchange and gather information. In this year, they have contributed a document statement about salary condition and contract types from each centre. Work conditions in at least two centres have been improved significantly by means of efforts of the HeJu.

❖ The communication group is to enhance the communication between each centre and the

public. They have built up a HeJu blog for sharing stories and ideas from students, also maintained the Facebook page and website of HeJu. In addition, “the PhD handbook”, a project initiated by the communication group in last year, has been finished in this year. It compiles relevant information for Helmholtz graduate students, for example, Helmholtz centre introduction, living and accommodation guide, work conditions etc.. It will be published in this year when the last revision is completed.

❖ The survey group has created a survey with large amount of data related to PhD students for every two years. They distribute it to each centre and summarize answers of questionnaires to database, which is a helpful work for understanding student situation in each centre.

❖ The main goal of the events group is to develop and organize attractive events that bring together and benefit PhD students from different Helmholtz institutions. In this year, they have successfully organized the HeJu mid-term meeting together with the Helmholtz headquarter in Berlin. Several new plans such as career day and interdisciplinary conference are under development.

❖ The embodiment group, as a new member, was founded in the middle of this year. It represents HeJu in committees within the Helmholtz and makes the HeJu to be a more professional association for the public. Moreover, they are also responsible for finding sustainable funding and reliable budget for the HeJu.





Mid-term Meeting Review

A midterm meeting was organised for the first time in Helmholtz-Juniors history. The two day meeting was hosted by the Helmholtz association headquarters in Berlin from the 21st to the 22nd of July. The event was a great success with high attendance including a number of new representatives.

The focus of the meeting was to review the work accomplished in the first part of the year, reassess goals and develop and work on current tasks. To achieve these goals the time was divided in large group discussions and focused working group periods. The location at the Helmholtz headquarters provided the possibility to meet with Professor Mlynek the president of the Helmholtz association and Nina Löchte the liaison in charge

The mid-term meeting in Berlin. It was held for summarizing the work of each group during the first half year and exchange information of the situation at different centres.

of the Helmholtz association and Nina Löchte the liaison in charge of the Helmholtz-Juniors. The following discussion was interesting for all participants and helped providing a greater understanding of the Helmholtz association and role that the Helmholtz-Juniors play within the collection of institutes that make up this body.

A number of highlights from the meeting included the release of the HeJu survey and initial tracking of participation institutes. The communications group had the opportunity to meet with the

communication and media relations representatives Janine Tyschen and Henning Krause. The fruitful discussion focused on how to improve visibility of the HeJu and the publication of the PhD booklet, a soon to be released guide for foreign students undertaking studies in Helmholtz centres. The potential embodiment of the HeJu was a hot topic of discussion. The embodiment would see the HeJu becoming an associated arm of the Helmholtz association rather than an independent body as is currently the case. This would bring benefits to the group in terms of budget and influence, and would play a critical role in acknowledging the importance of PhD students to the research community in Germany. An analysis of the benefits and disadvantages of this change is currently being made for review at the next HeJu meeting.

