

ACTION PLAN FOR THE SECOND-STAGE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HRS4R AT ICFO

November 2017

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1. DESCRIPTION

ICFO is a center of research excellence devoted to the science and technologies of light with a triple mission: to conduct frontier research, train the next generation of scientists, and provide knowledge and technology transfer. Over 400 researchers in 27 research groups and teams are dedicated to both fundamental and applied research programs that address standing issues such as health, renewable energies, information technologies, security and industrial processes, among others.

The Severo Ochoa distinction awarded by the Ministry of Industry, Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO), as well as 14 ICREA Professorships and 26 European Research Council grants demonstrate the centre's dedication to research excellence.

In January 2014, ICFO endorsed a Declaration of Commitment to the Principles of the "Charter for European Researchers" and the "Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers". It also committed to work towards the implementation of an "HR Strategy for Researchers" to establish a framework and detailed action plan to be implemented at ICFO with the aim of improving the research experience at the centre. Subsequently, a Core Committee was created to perform an internal analysis, involving key-players and following the EU recommendations, to establish a framework and detailed action plan for the implementation of the HR Strategy for Research at ICFO. The Core Committee is responsible for assessing and following-up on the implementation of the HRS4R Action Plan.

In 2015, ICFO was granted the "HR Excellence in Research" award, by the European Commission, to help promote itself as a provider of a stimulating and favorable work environment, as well as to highlight our commitment to implement fair and transparent recruitment and appraisal procedures for researchers.

The present document summarize the actions to be accomplished from 2017 to 2019, in the second stage of the implementation of the HRS4R at ICFO. The indicated actions are fruit of the internal audit of first stage actions accomplished.

2. METHODOLOGY

Following EU recommendations for the implementation of HRS4R, the action plan shall be based on an internal self-assessment involving key-players from different areas and professional levels.

With this aim, a Core Committee for the implementation of the HRS4R at ICFO was created, responsible for assessing and following-up on the successful execution of the HRS4R Action Plan, as well as for proposing adjustments where necessary.

Additional to the Core Committee, and in line with the HRS4R at ICFO itself, dedicated work committees were launched, involving key actors with expertise/ suitable background and knowledge for the actions concerning their area/ field.

During the first 24 months of the HRS4R at ICFO, we successfully accomplished the initially identified actions. With this progress in mind, and aware of new milestones resulting from this first period, based on the directives of the European Commission, we formally evaluated the Action Plan, and established new actions to be tackled during the upcoming 24 months. The revision of the action plan, and the HRS4R as such, was possible not the least thanks to the mechanisms for participation we implemented as part of one of the work packages, and which helped in the gathering/ compiling valuable information and feedback regarding the planned actions. Feedback mechanisms involved dedicated meetings with the committees involved, as well as questionnaires and input gathered from our stakeholders.

Following the recommendations of the EC for the mid-term self-audit of the HRS4R, ICFO compiled the relevant data and information, accomplishing a new GAP- analysis, comparing the key aspects initially targeted with the current situation and status of implementation, which allowed us identifying those actions that have been completed, altered, omitted or added, in order to finally define those actions to be targeted in the upcoming term of the HRS4R at ICFO.

Hence, in line with the recommendations by EC, ICFO now presents its revised HRS4R Action Plan 2017-2019, with its Work Packages, concrete actions, committees involved, as well as the calendar of implementation.

The revised HRS4R Action Plan was ratified by the ICFO Core Committee and sent to the EC for approval.

3. HR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

We hereby include the Strategic Objectives that were identified in the initial GAP analysis with the aim of streamlining improvements in key areas we identified to work on in the scope of the HRS4R at ICFO. These key strategic objectives remain valid, and are therefore subject for this second-stage implementation and its work packages, too:

- Continuous enhancement of the **Recruiting & Hiring Life-Cycle**, aiming to attract an increasing number of competitive and outstanding candidates for ICFO research positions, as well as to improve the hiring/onboarding experience of selected candidates.
- Continuous enhancement of the **Career Development Plan** for ICFO researchers, with the aim of offering the best opportunities for personal and professional growth and for boosting future careers both in the industrial and academic worlds.
- Continuous enhancement of **Good Practices in Research** at all levels, with the aim of improving the accomplishment of established ethical principles for each discipline, focusing research for the good of humankind and expanding the frontiers of scientific knowledge.
- Continuous enhancement of the **Research Environment** with the aim of providing the most healthy, safe, supportive, respectful, equitable, inclusive, stable, competitive and stimulating environment and thus provide the best possible conditions for top world-renowned research.
- Continuous improvement of the **Information Channels and Admin Work-flows** with the aim of ensuring that ICFO researchers have access to the necessary information in a reliable, professional, and user-friendly environment with optimized admin procedures, automatized as much as possible, making them time-, cost- and environmentally efficient.

4. ACTION PLAN 2017-2019

WP1: Consolidation Work Committees and mechanisms for participation

Action 1. Consolidate the PDC (Postdoctoral), ARRC (Admissions and Research Recruitment) and PhDC committees, by updating the corresponding appointments periodically

Action 2. Continue providing mechanisms for participation

WP2: Improvement of the recruiting & hiring life-cycle

Action 1. Implementation of an Open, Transparent and Merit-Based Recruitment (OTM-R) Policy at ICFO

Action 2. Consolidate a code of best practices in recruitment at ICFO

Action 3. Further development of the ICFOJobs online application interface

WP3: Assess the ICFO Career Development Plan (CDP) for researchers

Action 1. Consolidate the Career Development Plan

Action 2. Consolidate the mentorship and feedback mechanisms

Action 3. Consolidate the assessment on activities in teaching and coaching

WP4: Good practices in research

Action 1. Compile a “Code of best practices in research”

Action 2. Communicate and raise awareness of the “Code of best practices in research”

Action 3. Consolidate and expand the Research Integrity Course offered to PhD Students and expand it to the whole research community

WP5: Improve actions in the frame of Research Environment

Action 1. Consolidating the ICFO Gender Equality Plan

Action 2. Consolidating actions to ensure non-discrimination of disabled persons

Action 3. Data Protection Policy

Action 4. Maintain the high standards in ICFO Health & Safety

WP6: Improve information channels and admin work-flows

Action 1. Consolidation of the CRM.

Action 2. Consolidation of the Data Management Project.

Action 3. Optimizing onboarding protocol for newcomers.

5. WORK-PACKAGES TABLES AND WORKPLAN

WP1- CONSOLIDATION WORK COMMITTEES AND MECHANISMS FOR PARTICIPATION

ACTION	COMMITTEE IN CHARGE	TIME FRAME
Action 1. Consolidate the PDC (Postdoctoral), ARRC (Admissions and Research Recruitment) and PhDC committees, by updating the corresponding appointments periodically.	Core Committee	Q1-Q8
Action 2. Continue providing mechanisms for participation.	Core Committee	Q1-Q8

WP2- IMPROVEMENT OF THE RECRUITING & HIRING LIFE-CYCLE

ACTION	COMMITTEE IN CHARGE	TIME FRAME
Action 1. Implementation of an Open, Transparent and Merit-Based Recruitment (OTM-R) Policy at ICFO.	ARRC	Q5-Q7
Action 2. Consolidate a code of best practices in recruitment at ICFO.	ARRC	Q5-Q7
Action 3. Further development of the ICFOJobs online application interface.	ARRC	Q5-Q7

WP3- ASSESS THE ICFO CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CDP) FOR RESEARCHERS

ACTION	COMMITTEE IN CHARGE	TIME FRAME
Action 1. Consolidate the Career Development Plan.	PhDC & PDC	Q2-Q7
Action 2. Consolidate the mentorship and feedback mechanisms.	PhDC & PDC	Q2-Q7
Action 3. Consolidate the assessment on activities in teaching and coaching.	PhDC & PDC	Q2-Q7

WP4- GOOD PRACTICES IN RESEARCH

ACTION	COMMITTEE IN CHARGE	TIME FRAME
Action 1. Compile a "Code of best practices in research".	Core Committee	Q4-Q8
Action 2. Communicate and raise awareness of the "Code of best practices in research".	Core Committee	Q4-Q8
Action 3. Consolidate and expand the Research Integrity Course offered to PhD Students and expand it to the whole research community.	Core Committee	Q4-Q8

WP5- IMPROVE ACTIONS IN THE FRAME OF RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

ACTION	COMMITTEE IN CHARGE	TIME FRAME
Action 1. Consolidating the ICFO Gender Equality Plan	Core Committee	Q3-Q7
Action 2. Consolidating actions to ensure non-discrimination of disabled persons	Core Committee	Q3-Q7
Action 3. Data Protection Policy	Core Committee	Q3-Q7
Action 4. Maintain the high standards in ICFO Health & Safety	Core Committee	Q3-Q7

WP6- IMPROVE INFORMATION CHANNELS AND ADMIN WORK-FLOWS

ACTION	COMMITTEE IN CHARGE	TIME FRAME
Action 1. Consolidation of the CRM	Core Committee	Q8
Action 2. Consolidation of the Data Management Project	Core Committee	Q8
Action 3. Optimizing onboarding protocol for newcomers.	Core Committee	Q8

WORKPLAN		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
WP 1	Action 1. Consolidate the PDC (Postdoctoral), ARRC (Admissions and Research Recruitment) and PhDC committees, by updating the corresponding appointments periodically								
	Action 2. Continue providing mechanisms for participation								
WP 2	Action 1. Implementation of an Open, Transparent and Merit-Based Recruitment (OTM-R) Policy at ICFO								
	Action 2. Consolidate a code of best practices in recruitment at ICFO								
	Action 3. Further development of the ICFOJobs online application interface								
WP 3	Action 1. Consolidate the Career Development Plan								
	Action 2. Consolidate the mentorship and feedback mechanisms								
	Action 3. Consolidate the assessment on activities in teaching and coaching								
WP 4	Action 1. Compile a "Code of best practices in research"								
	Action 2. Communicate and raise awareness of the "Code of best practices in research"								
	Action 3. Consolidate and expand the Research Integrity Course offered to PhD Students and expand it to the whole research community								
WP 5	Action 1. Consolidating the ICFO Gender Equality Plan								
	Action 2. Consolidating actions to ensure non-discrimination of disabled persons								
	Action 3. Data Protection Policy								
	Action 4. Maintain the high standards in ICFO Health & Safety								
WP 6	Action 1. Consolidation of the CRM								
	Action 2. Consolidation of the Data Management Project								
	Action 3. Optimizing onboarding protocol for newcomers								

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