

HAPN Kick-off Brief

Background Information

The *Helmholtz Association Postdoc Network* (HAPN) was founded in response to ongoing discussions with the *Max Planck PostdocNet*, the *Leibniz PostDoc Network* and others (HeJus, N², etc.) about the *Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz* (WissZeitVG). After initial networking meetings of Postdoc representatives from 12 *Helmholtz Centers*, joint opinion papers about the WissZeitVG reform, and two surveys, the proposal for the establishment of HAPN was submitted to the *Helmholtz Head Office* in December 2023. The initiative was formally approved by the *Helmholtz Head Office* in February 2024, and shortly afterwards, planning for the launch of the network started.

HAPN will consist of a steering committee with two Postdoc representatives from each *Helmholtz Center* and three working groups. The mission of HAPN is to 1) Promote collaboration and networking, 2) Enhance postdoc experience and support, and 3) Advocate for administrative and operation optimization. HAPN is Postdoc-organized with support from Postdoc Coordinators of each center as well as the *Helmholtz Head Office*. The network will officially be launched at the Kick-off event in Berlin on November 5th and 6th. The event is organized by the interim HAPN Steering Committee, which is comprised of volunteer Postdoc representatives from several *Helmholtz Centers*.

The Kick-Off organization committee welcomes you to the launch of the *Helmholtz Association Postdoc Network*!

Session at the Kick-off

This document is meant to serve as a short session brief for all participants who signed up for the HAPN Kick-off. We are very grateful that you agreed to be part of the first HAPN Steering Committee and one of the HAPN Working Groups^y. We are sure that your input will be beneficial in shaping the future of the network and helping it to succeed.

Working Group Planning & Working Group Outcomes

The sessions you are participating in are called “Working Group Planning” and “Working Group Outcomes”. They will take place on Wednesday, 06.11.2024 from 10:00 to 13:00 at the *Max Delbrück Center*, Room R0.61, Hannoversche Straße 28, 10115 Berlin.

Session Goal

The goal of the session “Working Group Planning” is to organize and structure each working group by assigning goals, priorities and roles. The goal of the session “Working Group Outcomes” is to present the results of the session “Working Group Planning”.

Session Participants

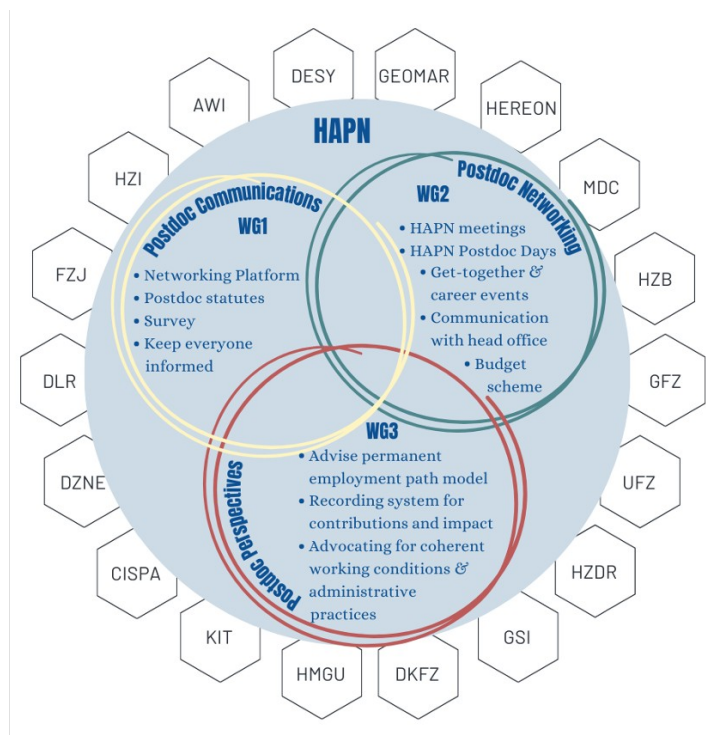
Chairs: Dr Jasmin Groß, Dr Sibioa Liu, Dr Neele Meyer – HAPN Planning Committee

Participants: All Kick-off participants

Session Brief

Working Group Planning

The first session “Working Group Planning” is scheduled for **two hours**. In the first session, each working group will meet in a different room to organize and structure the working group. The first task of each working group should be to assign a “Minute Taker” for the session to have a record of all outcomes. You can find the relevant proposal excerpts about the working groups below. They are meant as a starting point for further development of each group. So are the planned activities (PA) mentioned in each excerpt. A heading of each PA can be found in the timeline on page 4, and full descriptions in the proposal.



Working Group 1: Postdoc Communication

Chair: Dr Neele Meyer – HAPN Planning Committee

Room:

Proposal Excerpt:

The working group “Postdoc Communication” aims to ensure high-quality communication within and beyond HAPN. WG1 is specifically in charge of the establishment of communication channels for Helmholtz postdocs (**PA1.2**) and the statutes for HAPN (**PA2.1**). This WG will also plan and carry out the Helmholtz-wide postdoc survey (**PA2.2**). This group will regularly inform the Helmholtz postdoc community of HAPN’s planned activities, milestones of other WGs and updates from the Helmholtz Head Office (**PA3.1**) and individual centers. These updates will also be communicated to the Helmholtz postdoc community, other postdoc networks, the HeJus and beyond through the established channels. WG2 and WG3 will regularly update this group. WG1 will also regularly inform the public of interesting news/activities in the community through social media channels (e.g. Bluesky, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, or others).

Working Group 2: Postdoc Networking

Chair: Dr Sibiao Liu – HAPN Planning Committee

Room:

Proposal Excerpt:

The working group “Postdoc Networking” is in charge of organizing networking events, including a kick-off event (**PA1.1**), the HAPN Postdoc Days (**PA1.3**), get-together nights during (inter)national conferences (**PA1.4**), host career events (**PA2.3**) and the in-person meeting/s of the HAPN steering committee and all other WG members (**PA1.5**). Annual in-person meetings with the Helmholtz Head Office (**PA3.1**) will also be organized by this WG. Because the HAPN Postdoc Days and the HAPN steering committee meetings will be two of the largest parts of the requested budget, WG2 is also in charge of the development of the budget scheme (**PA1.6**). This WG interacts primarily with WG1 but also with WG3 to coordinate contributions of each WG to the planned events and meetings and request input on the budget scheme.

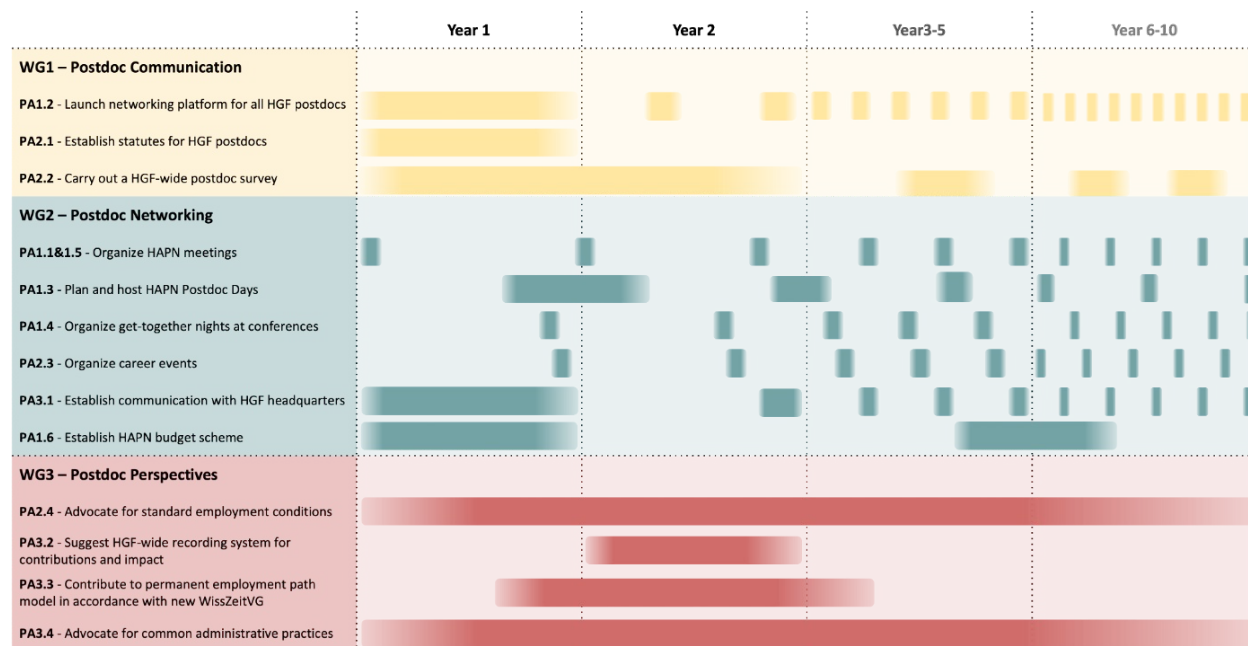
Working Group 3: Postdoc Perspectives

Chair: Dr Jasmin Groß – HAPN Planning Committee

Room:

Proposal Excerpt:

The working group “Postdoc Perspectives” is in charge of advocating for the optimization of processes which create and clarify perspective for postdocs within the Helmholtz Association. WG3’s focus mainly includes advising on permanent employment path models within the Helmholtz Association (**PA3.3**), promoting a Helmholtz-wide recording system for (extra-) scientific contributions and impact (**PA3.2**), and advocating for coherent working conditions and administrative practices for postdocs at all Helmholtz Centers (**PA2.4**, **PA3.4**).



Working Group Outcomes

The second session “Working Group Outcomes” is scheduled for **one hour**. In the second session, the outcomes of the first session will be presented to the other working groups. Feel free to assign speakers for your working group as you see fit (one or multiple speakers). Each working group will be given a 20 minute slot, with 15 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions from the other working groups. The order of presentation is the following:

Working Group 1: Postdoc Communication

Working Group 2: Postdoc Networking

Working Group 3: Postdoc Perspectives