



Image © CERN / Andrew Hara

#### Using Social Media To Make Science Publicly Appealing Stefania Pandolfi, PhD @CERN



United Nations/Austria Symposium "Access to Space: Holistic Capacity Building for the 21st Century" Graz, Austria, 3 – 7 September 2017



## Using Social Media To Make Science Publicly Appealing

- 1. How does CERN use social media?
- 2. What content do we share and how?
- 3. How do we measure the impact?
- 4. Which lessons learned could help your organisations?



### **CERN** on social media





## CERN social media strategy



1. Begin a journey



## 2. Foster engagement

3. Retain positive sentiment



http://communications.web.cern.ch/social-media



# What content? *Physics: CERN's reason to be*

#### The latest

#### advancements in

particle physics

#### Regular weekly posts:

- #ThrowbackThursday
- Guess What It Is



30 March at 15:13 · €

per beam)... See more

dr Like

000 422

#ThrowbackThursday #TBT

30 March 2010: First LHC collisions at 7 TeV

Comment



The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) experiments recorded collisions at 7

A Share

CERN ST March at 1227-6

Guess what it is? Image (3 CERN - For terms of use see http://cern.ch/copyright (Answer will be posted on Monday.)



| Top comments "                          |
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| d at the start of<br>linear<br>le beam. |
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Like Reply 3 April et 15:35 Edited





#### What content? Tell human stories





cern

Behind the scenes of physics, there are the scientists.



#### What content? Fun science



Abonné

Breaking news! #CERN and @NASA announce the discovery of an ancient particle accelerator on Mars cern.ch/go/Mw6Q

& À l'origine en anglais



RETWEETS J'AIME 1182 1777



09:04 - 1 avr. 2017



#### CERN 😔 @CERN · 29 mars

.@CERN now has 2M followers on Twitter! To our followers worldwide, #ThankYou! #IWorkAtCERN

O À l'origine en anglais



🛧 21 🚼 124 🤎 468



CERN @ @CERN · 17 mars CMS has a new 🖤 😍 cern.ch/go/p6QJ @CMSexperiment



### Being part of the scientific community

CERN 😒 @CERN + 12 févr. CERN congratulates the discoverers of #gravitationalwaves cern.ch/go/f6fs (Image: W.Benger/ZIB/AEI/CCT-LSU)



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Check out the Dutch National Institute for Subatomic Physics @\_nikhef for news in particle physics research #FollowFriday #NLatCERN



RETWEETS LIKES 38 108

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1:54 PM - 20 Jan 2017 4 2

23 38 dt 108

Work with our Member States through the **European Particle Physics** Communication Network (EPPCN)



#### Instagram stories

The ATLAS experiment @cern

We'll be live tomorrow! facebook.com/cern

#WhatsUpLHC

## Highlighting our stories







## What about the impact?

- Social Media Statistics
  - Mentions
  - Engagement (likes, shares, comments)
  - People: demographics, influencers
  - Sentiment
  - Top posts, top sources
- Google Analytics
  - Visits
  - Bounce rate / exit rate
  - Source / medium
  - Average time spent on a webpage



## **#InTheory: mentions matter**

**Total Mentions** 

#### #InTheory versus CERN mentions February – May 2016

473.6K



Image credit: Engagor



## **#WhatsUpLHC - Lessons learned**

Talk to the influencers, they can make the difference
Literesting Engineering shared CERN's live video.
Live 100 metres underground in the CMS cavers at CERN.





# Which lessons learned could help your organisations?

- Use social media to engage and drive traffic to your website
- Evaluate channels, audiences & resources put effort where it makes sense
- Create regular content to retain interest alongside news
- Find human stories that people can relate to
- Humour works!
- Collaborate with organisations, your internal community and influencers
- Test different and new techniques
- Monitor the impact and adapt accordingly





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