

Preface

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The "Workshop on Interplay between Soft and Hard interactions in particle production at ultrarelativistic energies" (WISH2010) was held in Catania (Italy) from the 8th to the 10th of September 2010. It has allowed the discussion among RHIC and LHC experimentalists and theoreticians about the particle production mechanisms with a specific attention to the interplay between hard and soft ones. The discussion was aimed at refining our perspectives for the study of p-p and heavy-ion collisions at the LHC. More specifically, the workshop topics regarded: 1) hadron production in QCD-inspired and statistical models, 2) bulk properties and collective phenomena, 3) jet and bulk particles in ultrarelativistic energy collisions and 4) modification of hadronic resonances in dense matter.

About 50 people participated and 29 talks were given in plenary sessions. The first results from the LHC experiments (ALICE, ATLAS, CMS and LHCf) were shown, together with highlights from RHIC and SPS; moreover, novelties were presented from most of the existing models. A full session was dedicated to the hadronic resonance production, with news from experiments operating on different accelerators (GSI, SPS, RHIC and LHC). There was a friendly atmosphere and a lot of discussions during the meeting as well as during breaks and lunches.

We are grateful to our sponsors (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN), Sezione di Catania, Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia dell'Università di Catania and ST Microelectronics), and to the Directors of the institutes which hosted the workshop, *i.e.* the Director of the INFN, Sezione di Catania, Dr. Angelo Pagano and the Director of "Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia dell'Università di Catania", Prof. Francesco Porto. Moreover, we thank the Director of the "Laboratori Nazionali del Sud" (LNS), Prof. Marcello Lattuada, who has allowed us to have our lunch breaks in the LNS guest-room structure. We are also grateful to our Catania colleague, Dr. Maurizio Consoli for his opening talk about the highlights of the work of his illustrious friend, Prof. Nicola Cabibbo, who passed away just some weeks before the beginning of the workshop.

Moreover we have to remember the staff of the "Calcolo e Reti", "Organizzazione e Amministrazione" and "Tecnico Generale" services of the INFN, Sezione di Catania, for their remarkable technical support during the whole of the event organization, Rita Ricceri for her precious support in the preparation of the workshop website and the staff of the travel agency "Shogun by il Mosaico Viaggi e Turismo" for their professionalism in taking care of the logistics.

We thank all the participants for their contributions and fruitful discussions. Last but not least, our sincere gratitude goes to the members of the International Advisory Committee⁽¹⁾ for their invaluable help and guidance and their very warm support during the whole of the workshop organization. It is our belief that the hard work of the Advisory Committee in suggesting the names of the invited speakers and helping to draw a well-balanced and attractive programme has been fundamental for a successful meeting.

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