



EuroPlaNet/IDIS, a scientific gateway for planetary sciences

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Europlanet which has been a Coordination Action under FP6 from January 2005 to Decembre 2008, became on January 2009 a Research Infrastructure under FP7 with activities planned until Decembre 2012. The main goal of EuroPlaNet is to foster cooperation among the community of european planetary scientists, to build a wide area of competences encompassing all fields of planetary sciences in order to enhance the scientific return of investments made in observational facilities either in space or on the ground, and to offer to planetary scientists a large forum to discuss and prepare new planetary missions. At the heart of the project is the development of a large remote service facility infrastructure the Integrated and Distributed Information Service (IDIS) dedicated to the archiving, manipulation and modeling of data collected from past and future planetary missions, as well as the remote access to all data produced in the different fields of planetary research (ground based telescopes, laboratory and field facilities, sample collections). Started as a portal generated at the end of Europlanet's FP6 contract, IDIS is now evolving towards a unique Virtual Planetary Observatory (VPO) that will allow the user to visualise, analyse, manipulate and interpret all types of observational and laboratory data. The work is being performed taking into account the recommendations of the international organizations that are dealing with planetary data standardization and are building virtual observatories, such as the International Planetary Data Alliance (IPDA) and the International Virtual Observatory Alliance (IVOA).