



## **The astronomer's Virtual Observatory as a tool for students, teachers and amateur astronomers**

Massimo Ramella and Giulia Iafrate

INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Trieste, Italy (ramella@oats.inaf.it)

During the past decade astrophysicists have carried out a program leading to a Virtual Observatory (VO) that offers: a) easy access to the major repositories of astronomical data with sophisticated query and retrieval procedures available from any desktop, b) a wealth of interoperating tools efficiently performing most common tasks on astronomical data. In Europe the project for the deployment of the VO has been EuroVO-AIDA. Within the framework of this project, just ended, we have modified professional tools and developed a library of use cases in order to extend to students, and citizens in general, part of the benefits that professional astronomers enjoy thanks to the development of the VO. Here we will illustrate our educational products and briefly explain how we developed them by interacting with samples of our target public. For the future, the development of VO together with VO for students and the public will follow two main roads: on the technical side we will extend our tools to neighboring fields, e.g. solar and planetary sciences, on the more general side we will develop policies for the key issue of the sustainability of the VO.