



Experience the Moon

A. Ortiz-Gil (1), L. Benacchio (2) and **C. Boccato** (2)

(1) Observatorio Astronómico - Universidad de Valencia, Spain, (2) Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica – Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova, Italy, (caterina.boccato@oapd.inaf.it / Fax: +39-049-8759847)

Abstract

The Moon is, together with the Sun, the very first astronomical object that we experience in our life. As this is an exclusively visual experience, people with visual impairments need a different mode to experience it too. This statement is especially true when events, such as more and more frequent public observations of sky, take place. This is the reason why we are preparing a special package for visual impaired people containing three brand new items:

1. a tactile 3D Moon sphere in Braille with its paper key in Braille. To produce it we used imaging data obtained by NASA's mission Clementine, along with free image processing and 3D rendering software.

In order to build the 3D small scale model funding by Europlanet and the Italian Ministry for Research have been used.

2. a multilingual web site for visually impaired users of all ages, on basic astronomy together with an in-depth box about the Moon;

3. a book in Braille with the same content of the Web site mentioned above.

All the items will be developed with the collaboration of visually impaired people that will check each step of the project and support their comments and criticism to improve it.

We are going to test this package during the next **International Observe the Moon Night** event.

After a first testing phase we'll collect all the feedback data in order to give an effective form to the package. Finally the Moon package could be delivered to all those who will demand it for outreach or educational goals.