

Amateur collaboration within Europlanet 2020 and beyond

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Abstract

The Horizon 2020 advanced research infrastructure project Europlanet 2020 aimed to strengthen the collaboration in European planetary sciences. One of its goals was for the first time to foster the collaboration between professional planetary scientists and amateur astronomers in Europe. This presentation will thus give an i) overview on this collaboration within Europlanet 2020 (ending in August 2019), but also on ii) the future of amateur astronomy within the potentially upcoming follow-up project Europlanet 2024. If granted by the European Commission, Europlanet 2024 will provide exciting opportunities for amateur astronomers in Europe and beyond.

1. The present: Europlanet 2020

Europlanet 2020 (www.europlanet-2020-ri.eu) is an advanced research infrastructure project of the European Commission's funding scheme Horizon 2020, which provides access to planetary field sites and internationally renowned laboratories, hosts the biggest Virtual Observatory in European planetary sciences, engages in public outreach, and organizes a diverse set of different scientific workshops. In addition, one of its Work Packages – *WP12: Networking Activity 1 (NA1) "Innovation through Science Networking"* – supports the organization of amateur workshops and observation campaigns. As an example, the "Workshop on Juno Ground-Based Support from Amateurs: Science and Public Impact", which took place from May 12-13, 2017, in Nice, France, marked one of the most successful amateur oriented workshops of the whole project. Furthermore, the support of amateur astronomers can even be seen as one of the big success stories of the whole project. This presentation will thus briefly give an overview of the amateur collaboration within

Europlanet 2020 and also discusses its outcomes, of which the following will be emphasized in particular.

2. The future: Europlanet 2024

The collaboration of amateurs within Europlanet 2020 culminated into the preparation of a separate Work Package on the Coordination of Ground-based Observations within the potentially upcoming follow-up project Europlanet 2024. The support of amateur astronomers is planned to be one of its cornerstones. If granted, the Work Package will provide 3 dedicated schemes to support amateur astronomy, i.e. i) the support of pro-am-workshops (as in Europlanet 2020), ii) the organization of dedicated regional amateur training workshops, and iii) the support of amateurs observing at professional observatories within Europe and beyond. The presentation will give a short overview on Europlanet 2024 with its focus on the potential support that will be available to amateur astronomers in case the project will finally be granted by the European Commission.

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