

# Workshop on Mars - Connecting Planetary Scientists in Europe

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## Abstract

Between 5-7 June, 2011 an international planetary science conference was organized in Budapest titled “*Workshop on Mars - Connecting Planetary Scientists in Europe (MPSE)*”. More than 70 participants registered for the workshop from 19 countries. The main topic was the latest scientific results on Mars, especially from Mars Express, to help the cooperation in the eastern region and provide a new forum for scientists there.

## 1. Introduction

The European Space Agency, the Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences (Hungarian Academy of Sciences) and the New Europe School for Theoretical Biology and Ecology organized the three day long meeting. This is the first of such a planetary science conference in the Central and Eastern European region.

## 2. Scope of the meeting

The conference is sponsored by the European Space Agency (ESA) to help promote ESA's planetary missions (Mars Express in particular) among scientists of Central and Eastern Europe, get to know what the scientific activities of their respective communities are, and to facilitate their integration into European planetary science teams by using scientific data especially from ESA Mars missions, and also to enhance the international cooperation regarding other European planetary science related activities. The meeting is particularly addresses to scientists from countries that have recently joined ESA (Czech Republic, Romania) or have signed cooperation agreements with ESA (Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia etc). Besides researchers, university students were welcomed at the meeting.

## 3. Agenda of the meeting

Two types of oral contributions were submitted for the meeting: invited presentations (60 or 30 min. including questions) and contributed presentations (20 or 15 min. including questions). The plenary lectures were presented by Mars Express PIs and ESA researchers. Beside Mars, submitted posters and talks were about the Moon, the Saturnian system, meteorites, craters, astrobiology, and solar system probe development. The details and the results will be presented at the EPSC 2012 meeting.



Figure 1: The logo of the conference (Chain Bridge in Budapest, to represent the meeting as a link that should connect planetary researchers in the region).

## 4. Acknowledgment

The conference was sponsored by the European Space Agency (Division Solar Systems Missions), organized by the Institute for Geological and Geochemical Research, the Konkoly Thege Miklos Astronomical Institute, and the New Europe School for Theoretical Biology and Ecology. The realization of the meeting was also supported by the International Cartographic Association Commission on Planetary Cartography, and the Nagy Karoly Astronomical Foundation. The help from the ESA ECS-project No. 98076. is acknowledged.