

Europlanet-2020 NA1 Exchange Program

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1. Introduction

Innovation in the area of planetary science is driven by the demanding environments in which spacecraft and their instruments must work, by the large datasets and challenging observations that must be made to understand planetary systems, and by the sheer curiosity of humans as a species to understand their own world in relation to the others we have found and are finding. Europlanet 2020 Research Infrastructure work package NA1 “Innovation through science networking” provides the key scientific backbone of EPN2020 and focuses on the human resources of the project itself and beyond - on researchers and engineers working in the field of planetary exploration in the ERA, contributing to overall capacity building in Europe. One of the tasks inside NA1 is the Exchange Program (Task 6) providing support to the activities of EPN2020 with exchange of experts.

2. Exchange Program Objectives

The Expert exchange task supports the activities of EPN2020 with experts and scientific exchange whenever it is needed. One of the objectives is to support exchange and foster cooperation between academia and industry (SMEs), and to provide benefits beyond the individual participants to the broader European community. At least one exchange recipient must be a beneficiary of EPN2020. The task involves coordination of Expert Exchanges and support to Young Scientists.

The Expert exchange program funds short visits (up to 1 week) with the goal of improving infrastructure facilities and services offered to the scientific community by the EPN2020 participant (contractor) laboratories or institutes. The main objectives of the program include:

- Support the integration of the inclusiveness states with the European planetary community

- Support and engage young scientists with the European planetary science community
- Support exchange and foster cooperation between academia and industry (SMEs)
- Support the inclusion of amateur communities in European planetary science campaigns
- Support the activities of EPN2020 with exchange of experts

3. Exchange Program Calls

Several calls for applications to the Exchange program have been issued, with future calls planned on regular basis. The summary of past and currently open calls is given in the table below.

Table 1: Exchange program calls, past and current

Call	Received applications	Approved applications
Call 1	2	2
Call 2	4	4
Call 3	1	1
Special call for IPPW-14	7	7
Call 4	open	

14 applications in total have been received and approved at this point. In order to get reimbursed, the chosen applicants provide the report of the visit after concluding their visit. The countries involved in the visits either as the originating country or the visited country so far are: Portugal, France, Finland, Denmark, UK, Czech republic, Hungary, Germany, Italy and Greece.

4. Summary and Conclusions

The task of Exchange Program of NA1 is to support the activities of EPN2020 with experts and scientific exchange whenever it is needed. Short visits (up to 1 week) with the goal of improving infrastructure facilities and services offered to the scientific community are supported from this task. Since the start of the EPN2020 in September 2015 we have received and approved 14 applications for exchange program travel. More general and specifically targeted calls are planned for the future. The calls are announced on Europlanet-2020 NA1 web site.

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References

Europlanet-2020 RI main web site:
<http://www.europlanet-2020-ri.eu>

NA1 WP web page:
<http://fmispace.fmi.fi/index.php?id=na1epn2020>

Exchange Program web page:
<http://fmispace.fmi.fi/index.php?id=exchange>