

ExoWorlds Spies: **a project for public involvement in exoplanet research**

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Abstract

We present here the project entitled ExoWorlds Spies, aiming to monitor exoplanets through regular observations. ExoWorlds Spies is a long-term project to monitor transiting exoplanets with small and medium scale telescopes. The project aims to improve the parameters and ephemerides of known transiting exoplanets, in support of future space missions such as the JWST and ARIEL. The main idea of the project is to observe stars hosting exoplanets with the aim of improving their parameters and their ephemerides. Understanding worlds beyond the Earth is a key issue for humanity and concerns everyone, not only the scientific communities. We strongly believe that research and science is an effort that everyone can take part. For this reason, in the context of our project, we are open to collaborations with members of the public including also students of schools and universities and help towards answering fundamental questions of science and society: Are there other planets like the Earth? Could they host life? Is there any other type of life?

Today, the general public can get involved in the effort of answering the above questions through citizen science projects. In our project, members of the public and students can contribute by obtaining or analysing data from small ground-based telescopes. In this presentation we will discuss the progress and the strategies followed to design an open project where everyone could take part and learn. We have also developed a dedicated website for the project in order to disseminate the material and the tools to as many people as possible. The website includes audiovisual material, information on the project, data analysis tools, instructions, observational data and graphics. All sources are online, free, and available for everyone both in English (and Greek). In order to approach various audiences from the public and more effectively communicate with them, we created also a social media platform (a Facebook page).

Website: www.astro.auth.gr/n/?p=exoworlds_spies_english
Facebook: **ExoWorlds Spies**