

Europlanet – Impact of outreach activities to date and looking ahead to a sustainable future

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Abstract

Outreach has been a core part of Europlanet since its foundation in 2004. In each of Europlanet's EU FP6, FP7 and Horizon 2020 funded programmes, around 10% of the total budget has been dedicated to outreach and engagement with external communities.

The Europlanet 2020 Research Infrastructure (RI), funded through the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, supports Europe's planetary science community through the provision of services, access to facilities, new research tools and a virtual planetary observatory. Europlanet 2020 RI was launched in September 2015 and runs through to August 2019. The project's Impact Through Outreach and Education (IOE) activities aim to engage the widest possible community with the work of Europlanet 2020 RI, and to involve the public, the media, policy makers, educators and students with the ongoing adventure of planetary science and the people that work in the field.

In 2018, Europlanet is launching a new Society, which welcomes individual membership. The Society will provide a sustainable structure to support Europe's planetary science community for decades to come and will provide a permanent home for the Europlanet Media Centre and many of Europlanet's outreach initiatives. The new Society will be structured around regional hubs, enabling a more local and culturally sensitive approach to outreach activities.

In this presentation, we will review the impact of Europlanet's outreach activities to date and look ahead to plans for how Europlanet will support the European planetary outreach community through the Society and other future projects.