

Final Version, 25th April 2008

The EuroVO-AIDA Board held its kick-off meeting on March 17th, 2007. The meeting was mainly devoted to the discussion of the Work Plan for Cycle 1.

Meeting attendees were the partners' Board members and several of the proposed Work Packages Management Team (WPMT) members. EuroVO-DCA Board members who are not members of the EuroVO-AIDA Board were also invited to attend the meeting.

A list of actions to be taken (Annex 1) has been issued and is attached to this document.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

CNRS	Françoise GENOVA (Project Coordinator, CNRS's EuroVO-AIDA Board member and Board Chairperson)
CNRS	Mathias DEPRETZ (EuroVO-DCA Project Manager)
CNRS	Mark ALLEN (EuroVO-DCA Project Scientist)
CNRS	Laurence ARBOUSSE (Administrative contact at CDS)
CNRS	Jerôme BERGER (Administrative contact at CNRS)
CNRS	Agnès ORB (Administrative contact at CNRS)
ESA	Christophe ARVISET (ESA's EuroVO-AIDA Board member)
ESA	Pedro OSUNA (ESA's EuroVO-AIDA WPMT member)
ESO	Paolo PADOVANI (ESO's EuroVO-AIDA Board member)
ESO	Evanthia HATZIMINAOGLOU (ESO's EuroVO-AIDA WPMT member)
INAF	Riccardo SMAREGLIA (INAF's EuroVO-AIDA Board member)
INAF	Massimo RAMELLA (INAF's EuroVO-AIDA WPMT member)
INAF	Fabio PASIAN (INAF's EuroVO-DCA Board member)
INTA	Enrique SOLANO (INTA's EuroVO-AIDA Board member)
RUG	Edwin VALENTIJN (RUG's EuroVO-AIDA Board member)
UEDIN	Andy LAWRENCE (UEDIN's EuroVO-AIDA Board member)
UHEI	Joachim WAMBSGANSS (UHEI's EuroVO-AIDA Board member)

The agenda proposed by the Project Coordinator was approved by the Board as follows:

TIME	TITLE	MAIN SPEAKER
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome	Françoise Genova
9:10 - 9:40	WP1: Management	Françoise Genova
9:40 - 10:30	WP2: Strategy, co-operation and dissemination	Françoise Genova
10:30 - 10:45	Break	
10:45 - 11:30	WP3-SA1 - Support to deployment	Christophe Arviset
11:30 - 12:20	WP4-SA2 - Support to the scientific community	Paolo Padovani
12:20 - 13:05	WP5-SA3 - Support to higher education and outreach	Riccardo Smareglia / Massimo Ramella
13:05 - 14:00	Lunch (buffet)	
14:00 - 14:30	Board-specific topics	
14:30 - 15:15	WP6-JRA1 - Evolution of Interoperability Standards	Andy Lawrence
15:15 - 16:00	WP7-JRA2 - Data Access Portocols and Data Models	Christophe Arviset
16:00 - 16:15	Break	
16:15 - 17:00	WP8-JRA3 - Assessment of Emerging Technologies	Françoise Genova
17:00 - 17:30	Performance/research indicators and Risk Register	
17:30 - 18:00	AOB and Wrap-up (schedule and actions)	

Françoise GENOVA, as EuroVO-AIDA Project Coordinator and Board Chairperson, launched the meeting with an overview of the EuroVO-AIDA project. Then Work Package (WP) leads presented their plans for Cycle 1. These presentations are not reproduced in full in these minutes since the information is permanently available on: <http://cds.u-strasbg.fr/twikiAIDA/bin/view/EuroVOAIDA/Board1>.

1. WP1 – Management

WP1 objectives are to oversee the project on behalf of all the partners, to co-ordinate financial and administrative matters and to deliver the project external presence.

Details on the areas of work for WP1 are described in the presentation, available on the TWiki (<http://cds.u-strasbg.fr/twikiAIDA/bin/view/EuroVOAIDA/Board1>).

The first Deliverable of the project is D1.1 (Project Web site), due for May 2008. The "static" web pages describing the project will be produced by the CNRS and partners will provide comments. These Web pages will be installed on the Euro-VO Web pages, with a link to the project TWiki. Concerning the project TWiki site, the Project Manager (PM) will fill in the description of each Work Package (WP) and Partners will be asked to register and to complete the "activity" page for the WP they are in charge of (BOARD1-WP1-A4).

A notification of modification will be put in place by the CNRS (BOARD1-WP1-A3). The EuroVO-AIDA logo is already available thanks to ESO and Lars Christensen (ESA-ECF).

The Project Reporting to the European Commission (EC) will consist in the delivery of all Project Deliverables. CNRS, as the Project Coordinator, will help partners for the writing of these deliverables and will transmit them to the EC. The Project Manager will provide the Reporting guidelines and Deliverables templates on the TWiki (BOARD1-WP1-A5). Françoise GENOVA reminded project partners to take the schedule very seriously, especially for the First, Second and Final contractual reports (Activity and Management reports). Partners will get in touch with their local authorities to ensure that the Financial reports will be provided on time (BOARD1-WP1-A8). Partners are also asked to keep up to date the list of presentations to meetings organised by the EC and by other EC funded projects to which they will participate by filling the "Schedule" page and the relevant WP1 page on the TWiki, and to keep the PM informed of all meetings to which they will participate on EuroVO-AIDA funds.

The Project Manager and the WPMT will assure the maintenance of the List of Performance/research indicators (see Annex 2) and of the Risk Register (see Annex 3). The initial tables are discussed in Section 9 and attached to these minutes.

2. WP2 - Strategy, co-operation and dissemination

WP2 objectives are to ensure all the project Networking Activities. This will be done through a strong interaction with the other WPs.

Details on the areas of work for WP2 are described in the presentation, available on the TWiki (<http://cds.u-strasbg.fr/twikiAIDA/bin/view/EuroVOAIDA/Board1>).

Concerning the Strategy Definition (WP2-1), the CNRS will organize a discussion of the medium term Euro-VO strategic plan taking into account EU calls (BOARD1-WP2-A1). The census of Data Centres produced by EuroVO-DCA will be used and maintained by EuroVO-AIDA. It is nearly completed. ESA and CDS are asked to provide their contribution (BOARD1-WP2-A2).

3 Science Workshops (ESO), 2 Community Feedback Workshops (ESA) and 1 Technology Forum (UEDIN) are essential elements for the dissemination of knowledge, the gathering of feedback and the sharing of best practices (WP2-2). The consolidated Workshop schedule and updated milestones list will be discussed during the "Any Other Business" (AOB) session (Section 10 – Annex 4) and will be made available on the TWiki (BOARD1-WP2-A4).

The Project TWiki, with the participation in conferences, will be very useful for the dissemination towards the community (WP2-3). Tutorials from SA1 (Service activities in support of the deployment of IVOA protocols and standards) and SA2 (Service Activities in support of provision of VObs-enabled services to the science community) have to be properly identified as EuroVO-AIDA products. They will be published on Euro-VO Web pages.

The international cooperation on IVOA standards (WP2-4) will be assured through participation in IVOA Interoperability meetings and IVOA Working Group discussions.

A number of other communities (WP2-5) have already been identified:

- Planets, Heliospheric physics, METAFOR, Earth Observation
- Digital libraries (DRIVER)

Participation to EC concertation activities is also mandatory

The first Deliverable for WP2 is D2.1 (Preliminary Project Plan), scheduled for April 2008. The CNRS will provide a draft version of this deliverable (BOARD1-WP2-A3.2) with input from partners' Board presentations, additional information on partner contribution in each WP they are not in charge of (BOARD1-WP2-A3.1; BOARD1-WP6-A2; BOARD1-WP8-A1), and will ask partners for comments and complements (BOARD1-WP2-A3.3).

3. WP3 - SA1 - Service Activities in support of deployment of IVOA protocols and standards

The objective of WP3 is to support the deployment of IVOA protocols and standards in Europe, including provision of a Euro-VO registry of VO resources. ESA, as one lead of the Euro-VO Facility Centre, is the WP lead. A lot of work will be contributed by the partners. This Work Package and WP2-2 will ensure continuation of EuroVO-DCA activities in support to data providers.

Details on the areas of work for WP3 are described in the presentation, available on the TWiki (<http://cds.u-strasbg.fr/twikiAIDA/bin/view/EuroVOAIDA/Board1>).

Partners will work in close collaboration, especially on Registry Curation tools and Support to Data Providers. Partners interested in taking part to WP3 activities will provide the name and contact details of a contact person to the PM (also for other WPs) who will disseminate the information among the project members (BOARD-WP1-A6).

After the presentation, project partners indicated their interest in WP3:

- CNRS: for the help to publishers in the French registry, to be included in the European registry; for gathering feedback from implementation, in particular to deal with Vizier tables and services which "saturate" the registry (also in WP6 for aspects relevant to the evolution of the Registry IVOA standards); for the customization and evolution of Aladin for data providers; for refurbishing the developers' corner.
- ESO: for the Registry and for the Support to Data Providers, as these actions are parts of the Euro-VO Facility Centre work
- UEDIN: will continue at least on the short term to maintain UK Registry in connexion with the European one and help the UK community to run publishing registries, for the link with WP6 about Registry standards and for the work with ESA on publishing tools (implementation and test)
- INAF: for the link with the Grid, for the support to implementation of theoretical standards, for the help in Workshops on theory data and services.
- NOVA: for registering AstroWise and LOFAR
- INTA: for the continuation of EuroVO-DCA work for support to Data Centres from other European countries

On the last point, a peculiar effort has to be made to quantify the results (as pointed at by the EuroVO-DCA mid-term review).

4. WP4 - SA2 - Service Activities in support of provision of VObs-enabled services to the science community

WP4 is led by ESO and based on the Euro-VO Facility Centre, which interacts with the Science community as well as with the data providers. The activities of the Facility Centre

are reminded with a complement of information on the Euro-VO Science Advisory Committee (SAC), which held its last meeting on March 11-12, 2008. Evanthia HATZIMINAOGLOU will be the WP lead.

Details on the areas of work for WP4 are described in the presentation, available on the TWiki (<http://cds.u-strasbg.fr/twikiAIDA/bin/view/EuroVOAIDA/Board1>).

WP4 next milestone is the First Announcement of Opportunities (AO) in July 2008. The idea is to give support to projects interested in utilising VO tools. As the 2007 Euro-VO Research Initiative has not been very successful, it is necessary to improve the results. The Science Advisory Committee provided input. A draft text for the AO will be provided by ESO (BOARD-WP4-A1.1) and partners will provide their comments (BOARD-WP4-A1.2). National contact points will be nominated by the partners (BOARD-WP4-A1.4) who will also contact selected national teams to gather requirements and needs and to publicize the AO, in addition to more general European and national information dissemination channels (BOARD-WP4-A1.3). At least one meeting will be organised with the selected teams, and they may be invited to present their results to a specific meeting. The call will be opened in April 2008. The limit date for answering will be mid-June 2008, to begin the support in September 2008.

The first "Community feedback" Workshop, which will be organised by ESA, is scheduled on end November 2008. Partners are asked to provide a contact person (BOARD-WP4-A2) to work on the Workshop organization. ESO will also work with the project interested partners for the organization of the "hands-on Workshop", due in March 2009 (BOARD-WP4-A3).

Proposed topics for the "Community Feedback" Workshops are: Multi-wavelength astronomy, Images, Time series, Surveys. It is decided to organise the first Workshop on the theme of Multi-wavelength astronomy.

F. GENOVA notes that additional focused Workshops can be organised if several partners are interested as in EuroVO-DCA for the "Spectroscopy and the VO" Workshop.

Project partners indicated their interest in WP4:

- CNRS: Help for the AO, feasibility assessment of the proposals, customization of tools (Aladin), scripts, evolution of tools taking into account the needs appearing from the AO; organisation of one Workshop; organisation of one meeting; and customization of tools with respect to the needs expressed
- ESA: Participation in most activities as an important activity in the Facility Centre; No contact person for the moment, pending to the replacement of M. GUAINNAZZI
- INTA: Science cases, help for Workshops and AO
- NOVA: Contribution to the adaptation of VO tools
- UEDIN: Coordination with UK Workshops, sharing of experience on the Helpdesk system, contribution to methods on the long term
- UHEI: Use Cases and tutorials

5. WP5 - SA3 - Support to higher education and outreach

The activities developed in WP5 are new in European VO activities, with the idea to "export" tools already used towards a rather new public: teachers, students, amateur astronomers and the general public. This aim supposes to gather information from these

different communities and then to select a number of targeted tools which will fulfil their different needs.

Details on the areas of work for WP5 are described in the presentation, available on the TWiki (<http://cds.u-strasbg.fr/twikiAIDA/bin/view/EuroVOAIDA/Board1>).

INAF will organize a teleconference meeting (BOARD1-WP5-A1) with interested partners to identify all available tools and define what to propose to which community. This meeting will be the occasion to prepare deliverable D5.1 (Identification of User requirement for the outreach activities), due on June 2008. ESA, ESO, NOVA and CNRS already expressed their willingness to participate.

A number of tools have been identified during the presentation: Aladin, GAIA, Virgo, PLASTIC, Google sky/map/earth and Microsoft WW. Outreach vocabulary and interface with Google Sky and WWT are presently discussed at IVOA level

Interest expressed by the partners:

CNRS: Integration of CDS services into outreach tools, output of CDS services into physical units (estimated parameters) for higher education (and astronomers), semi-automated tutorials (trigonometry, colours), nice images to illustrate families of objects; Aladin can be programmed by scripts

ESO: Virgo can probably do everything that is needed. ESO will contact Lars Christensen about WP5 and IVOA outreach vocabulary discussion (BOARD1-WP5-A2).

NOVA: possibility to involve students in Workshops to raise their interest.

6. WP6 - JRA1 - Evolution of VObs Interoperability Standards

UEDIN is in charge of this Work Package, but underlines the fact that the 3 Joint Research Activities (JRAs) are strongly interlinked. The evolution of the VO standards is very important for the development of the Virtual Observatory and will continue to require an international agreement for which European organisations can provide a strong input through EuroVO-AIDA. Keith NODDLE will lead the WP.

Details on the areas of work for WP6 are described in the presentation, available on the TWiki (<http://cds.u-strasbg.fr/twikiAIDA/bin/view/EuroVOAIDA/Board1>).

The key milestones are the Technical Forums, which will need to be prepared with the VO-TECH team for the two first ones, and the IVOA interoperability meetings. In order to prepare IVOA meetings at best, it is proposed that EuroVO-AIDA partners discuss during the Technology Forum before each IVOA event, to define a European view on targets and priorities (BOARD1-WP6-A1).

The reports to be produced will contribute to set the status of interoperability standards, but UEDIN propose to produce a "VO compliance handbook". The discussion shows that this should be a document produced by JRA1 to guide the other WPs rather than a general document for the community. A discussion within WP2 "Strategy" can be organized if necessary. UEDIN will circulate a draft on WP6 work plan and goals among partners tackling in particular this aspect (BOARD1-WP6-A2).

Partners will take part to the discussions in the different groups of the IVOA (Applications, GWS, Registry, etc.). An immediate zero level priority is the definition of the Table Access Protocol (TAP).

A number of partners expressed their interest for the participation in WP6 activities:

- CNRS: PLASTIC, Workflow, evolution of Registry standards, Single Sign On, and other standards than DAL and DM
- ESA : Evolution on registry standards (in link with WP3) and other standards not directly related to WP7
- INAF: Standards on theory
- INTA: Standards on theory
- UHEI: Standards on theory

Keith NODDLE will circulate a draft document on priorities. E. VALENTIJN notes that this aspect of the project is the most difficult to understand by the community. It is proposed to produce an outreach page explaining the standards.

7. WP7-JRA2 - Data Access Protocols and Data Models

This Work Package led by ESA is more focussed on 3 standards: Data Access Layer, Data Models and VO Query Language.

Details on the areas of work for WP7 are described in the presentation, available on the TWiki (<http://cds.u-strasbg.fr/twikiAIDA/bin/view/EuroVOAIDA/Board1>).

ESA will work with the partners on the definition of prototypes of IVOA standards at the European level. The Technical Forums organized within WP2-2 will be important milestones to bring Euro-VO view as one. The WP also has a natural link with WP3 on the Registry and the support to Data Centres for the implementation of these prototypes at the European level and for gathering feedback from implementation. The participation to IVOA Working Groups on DAL, DM and VOQL will be prepared within WP7.

Interest expressed y the partners:

- CNRS: Provenance, SIA Extension, Characterisation of complex data, instrument footprint (with ESO)
- INAF: DAL, DM and VOQL for theory
- INTA: DAL, DM and VOQL for theory; data models for ground based radio astronomy
- NOVA: Data Models
- UHEI: DAL, DM and VOQL for theory

8. WP8-JRA3 - Assessment of Emerging Technologies

WP8, led by CNRS, will assess the potential usage of emerging technologies of interest to VO in technical areas where the partners are involved.

Details on the areas of work for WP8 are described in the presentation, available on the TWiki (<http://cds.u-strasbg.fr/twikiAIDA/bin/view/EuroVOAIDA/Board1>).

The assessment of usage of Web 2.0 for Data Centres will be developed by the CNRS. This activity is new in the Euro-VO. Thanks to VO-TECH, "Semantics and Ontologies" and "Data mining" are already under development and the transition with EuroVO-AIDA has to be defined. On Semantics and Ontologies, INAF will work with the CDS on the

definition of a vocabulary, on the mapping and on the development of a prototype on Ontology. INAF and UEDIN will provide input on the work plan for these two activities, with reference to the transition with VO-TECH (BOARD1-WP8-A1).

ESA will participate to this WP for the emerging technologies and their potential use within the VO.

9. Performance/research indicators and Risk Register

The EuroVO-AIDA preliminary list of Performance/research indicators and the Risk Register have been reviewed by the Board members and updated versions are available as Annex 2 and Annex 3 respectively. Comments on the current situation have been added to the Risk Register.

Two changes have been done in the Risk Register:

Risk NA-R2: The likelihood is lowered from 2 to 1, as this was the aim of the 1st Board meeting and that it will be taken into account in the Project Plan.

Risk SA-R3: The likelihood of occurrence has been raised from 1 to 2, as the prototype 2007 Euro-VO Research Initiative was not successful. Mitigation actions have been discussed during the meeting.

The two documents will be reviewed at each WPMT and Board meeting during the whole duration of the project.

10. Board specific topics

The status of the Consortium Agreement is discussed (final phase).

The Board nominated Paolo PADOVANI as the EuroVO-AIDA Project Scientist.

Partners have been reminded that they should propose a member for the Work Package Management Team (WPMT) and the Internal Science Team (IST) (BOARD1-WP1-A7).

Jerome BERGER asks Board members to provide a contact person for financial matters. Details have to be sent to M. DEPRETZ.

11. AOB and Wrap-up (schedule and actions)

The list of Workshops (see below) and milestones is discussed and a few adjustments are made to maximize success and impact (BOARD1-WP1-A9). The updated list of milestones is given in Annex 4.

The Board members defined the schedule of Workshops during the EuroVO-AIDA project.

- 1 - Technology Forum 1 / March 2008 (CNRS)
- 2 - EuroVO-DCA Workshop / June 2008 (ESO)
- 3 - Technology Forum 2 / September 2008 (UEDIN)
- 4 - First Science Workshop / November 2008 (ESA) – initial date: October 2008
- 5 - Technology Forum 3 / March 2009 (CNRS)
- 6 - Hands-on Workshop / April 2009 (ESO) initial date: February 2009

- 7 – Data Centres Workshop / June 2009 (ESA)
- 8 – Technology Forum 4 / September 2009 (INAF)
- 9 – Second Science Workshop / November 2009 (CNRS) initial date: October 2009
- 10 – Technology Forum 5 / March 2010 (UHEI)