

# WP2

## Definition of European Data Centre Alliance strategy

## WP2 objectives

- Define the project programme
- Oversee the project development and monitor the progress of WPs 2-6
- Oversee the scientific aspects of the project (WP2-2 – M. Allen's talk)
- Define a medium-term strategic plan for the Euro-VO Data Centre Alliance
- Ensure visibility of EuroVO-DCA in IVOA

## Description of work

- Technical and scientific leadership and planning, developing the overall project plan and assessing the activities
- Board, PCT, IST
- Risk register and self evaluation matrix
- Support to participation in IVOA meetings

# Deliverables

D2	Preliminary project plan	WP2	CNRS	October 2007	11 December 2006
D3	Revised project plan	WP2	CNRS	October 2007	15 December 2007

Future deliverables:

D4 – Medium term strategic plan (December 2008)

D5 – Census of European data centres (December 2008) –  
Preliminary census produced as foreseen during the kick-off phase (2 November 2006)

# Project programming/strategy definition

Agile project programming and strategy definition to maximize the project impact and DCA medium term sustainability

- Listen to the community needs in the partners' countries and in other European countries (e.g., Spectroscopy Workshop, participation to the Lithuanian VO Workshop)
- Remain science driven (WP2-2)
- Look for European added-value
- Evaluate the context and its evolution at the international, European, national levels
- Size opportunities for networking: disseminate our knowledge, learn from others

# Project programming/monitoring (1)

## Milestones and deliverables

- Kick-off: first Board meeting, 2 & 3 October 2006  
(WPs 2-6 Milestone, Month 2)
  - Presentation of the partners' VObs activities
  - Discussion of the WP work programme, agreement on the possibility for the WPs to convene specific workshops
- WP2-D2: Preliminary project plan (Month 2)
  - No PCT meeting, email discussion
  - Work Programme for Cycle 1
- Additional Board meeting, 1 & 2 February 2007
  - WP activities, Census, Workshops, Strategy in the light of FP7 Work Programme

## Project programming/monitoring (2)

### Milestones and deliverables

- First PCT face-to-face meeting, 3 & 4 May 2007
  - Assessment of WP activities, plans for the following six months
  - Update of the evaluation matrix and risk register
- Mid-term Board-PCT meeting, 4 & 5 October 2007  
(WPs 2-6 Milestone, Month 14)
  - Common Board/PCT meeting
  - Assessment of Cycle 1 activities and revised project plan for Cycle 2 (deliverable WP2-D3)
  - Mid-project evaluation and update of the evaluation metrics
- WP2-D3: Revised project plan (Month 14)
  - Work Programme for Cycle 2

# DCA Medium term strategic plan

## Several aspects

- Identify the DCA community
- Provision of ‘important’ archives in the VObs
- Keywords of medium-term evolution of the VObs
- European aspects
  - VObs projects
  - Astronomy strategy
  - Concertation with other disciplines/projects



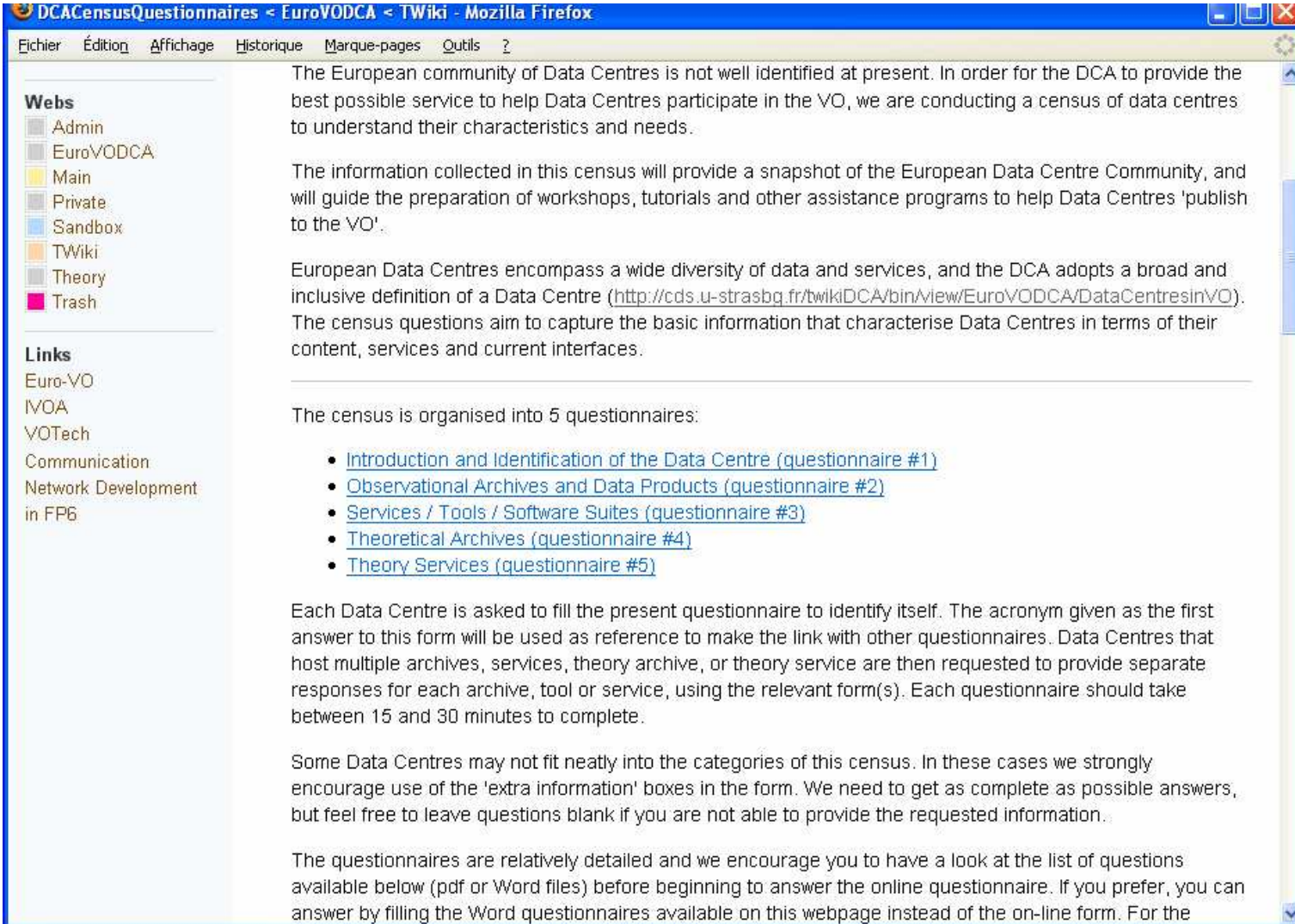
# Identify the European DCA community

- WP2 – D5: Census of European Data Centres
  - Definition of a data centre in the VO context
  - Preliminary census from partners' input
  - Census questionnaire

Requirements: managing a huge diversity, getting enough information to understand the products and needs, check ergonomics, include theory

Board, IST, PCT input

Extensive tests by data centres selected by the partners



DCACensusQuestionnaires < EuroVODCA < TWiki - Mozilla Firefox

Fichier Édition Affichage Historique Marque-pages Outils ?

**Webs**

- Admin
- EuroVODCA
- Main
- Private
- Sandbox
- TWiki
- Theory
- Trash

**Links**

- Euro-VO
- VOA
- VOTech
- Communication
- Network Development in FP6

The European community of Data Centres is not well identified at present. In order for the DCA to provide the best possible service to help Data Centres participate in the VO, we are conducting a census of data centres to understand their characteristics and needs.

The information collected in this census will provide a snapshot of the European Data Centre Community, and will guide the preparation of workshops, tutorials and other assistance programs to help Data Centres 'publish to the VO'.

European Data Centres encompass a wide diversity of data and services, and the DCA adopts a broad and inclusive definition of a Data Centre (<http://cds.u-strasbg.fr/twikiDCA/bin/view/EuroVODCA/DataCentresinVO>). The census questions aim to capture the basic information that characterise Data Centres in terms of their content, services and current interfaces.

The census is organised into 5 questionnaires:

- [Introduction and Identification of the Data Centre \(questionnaire #1\)](#)
- [Observational Archives and Data Products \(questionnaire #2\)](#)
- [Services / Tools / Software Suites \(questionnaire #3\)](#)
- [Theoretical Archives \(questionnaire #4\)](#)
- [Theory Services \(questionnaire #5\)](#)

Each Data Centre is asked to fill the present questionnaire to identify itself. The acronym given as the first answer to this form will be used as reference to make the link with other questionnaires. Data Centres that host multiple archives, services, theory archive, or theory service are then requested to provide separate responses for each archive, tool or service, using the relevant form(s). Each questionnaire should take between 15 and 30 minutes to complete.

Some Data Centres may not fit neatly into the categories of this census. In these cases we strongly encourage use of the 'extra information' boxes in the form. We need to get as complete as possible answers, but feel free to leave questions blank if you are not able to provide the requested information.

The questionnaires are relatively detailed and we encourage you to have a look at the list of questions available below (pdf or Word files) before beginning to answer the online questionnaire. If you prefer, you can answer by filling the Word questionnaires available on this webpage instead of the on-line form. For the

## ‘Important’ archives

- Key question for community medium term support: provision of ‘important’ archives in the VObs (cf Mark Allen’s talk)
- A specific action to be performed during Cycle 2
  - Identify contact persons
  - Understand the needs
  - Use the Workshop
- List provided by EuroVO-SAC + partners’ input on their priorities + census

# VObs evolution

- Keywords for the VObs evolution:
  - transition to operations
  - sustainability
- Several levels
  - National projects – input from partners
  - IVOA: on-going assessment of possible evolutions during operations
    - Will keep its role for definition and maintenance of the standards
    - Possible extension to e.g. sharing community support material under study

## European aspects (VObs)

Transition of VObs to operations: co-ordination with Euro-VO Astronomical Infrastructure for Data Access

- I3 in the Scientific Digital Repositories framework, start date 1 February 2008
- Co-ordination with EuroVO-DCA and VO-TECH taken into account in EuroVO-AIDA Description of Work

# European aspects (astronomy strategy)

The screenshot shows the Astronet website interface. The main content area is titled 'WHAT IS ASTRONET?' and contains the following text:

ASTRONET was created by a group of European funding agencies in order to establish a comprehensive long-term planning for the development of European astronomy. The objective of this effort is to consolidate and reinforce the world-leading position that European astronomy has attained at the beginning of this 21st century.

The success of present-day European astronomy has been built by combining previously scattered resources into multilateral partnerships, the most important of which are ESO for ground-based optical astronomy and ESA for space astronomy. Developing this concept and its impact and expand it to all domains of astronomy and all of Europe requires a shared, comprehensive Science Vision and roadmap for future infrastructures in astronomy. In parallel, the barriers which impede coordinated joint projects among countries must be identified, and ways to overcome these barriers must be proposed and tested.

To do so, ASTRONET will cover all astrophysical objects from the Sun and Solar system to the global structure of the Universe, as well as every observing approach, in space and from the ground, and from radiation at any wavelength to astroparticles and gravitational waves. It will address the whole "food chain" from infrastructure and technology development to observation, including the Virtual Observatory, modelling, and theory. Equally importantly, ways to better coordinate the planning and execution of research programmes in astronomy among European countries will be explored and demonstrated in practice.

The ASTRONET consortium, which is intended to widen, has nine participants at the moment (CNRS/INSU, coordinator, for France, BMBF and PT-DESY for Germany, ESO, INFN for Italy, MEC for Spain, NOSTA, NWO for the Netherlands, STFC for the United Kingdom), eleven associates (ESA, MPG and DFG for Germany, LAS for Lithuania, SRC for Sweden, GNCA for Greece, HAS for Hungary, ESF for Estonia, SER for Switzerland, FWF for Austria, and AI SAS for Slovakia) and two Forum members, the ISA for Israel and the Institute of Astronomy of the University of Latvia.

Starting September 2005, 1st, ASTRONET is financed by the EC up to a level of 2.5 M€, out of a total budget of 3.6 M€. The project duration is 4 years. ASTRONET is an ERA-Net financed by the European Commission FP6 under the initiative "Integration and Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA)".

The sidebar on the right lists 'Latest Events':

- FIRST ASTRONET JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS:** This call will be open on the 1st of February 2008 for research projects aiming at: "Common Tools for Future Large sub-mm Facilities". More information will be given in early 2008.
- ASTRONET INFRASTRUCTURE ROADMAP SYMPOSIUM 2008:** June 16-19, 2008, Liverpool Arena and Convention Centre, United Kingdom. For more information you can see the webpage dedicated to the Symposium.
- ASTRONET Board:** The next meeting will be held in Paris on February 28, 2008.
- ASTRONET Executive Committee:** The next meeting will be held in Paris on February 27, 2008.
- Science Vision for European astronomy:** The final report is now available in PDF format in either low (17 MB) or normal (47 MB) resolution.
- August 2007:** Integration of the Israel Space Agency (ISA) as Forum member.
- July 2007:** The report on the management of European astronomy and the dedicated website are now available.
- July 2007:** The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) joins

- The Astronet ERA-NET is consolidating a global European strategy for astronomy
- VObs appears in the 'Science Vision'
- VObs appears in one of the Roadmap panels

# Concertation with other disciplines/projects (1)

- ‘Nearby’ disciplines (Europlanet, heliophysics)
  - Contacts exist. The adequate level of interaction has to be defined
- Sharing lessons learnt from the astronomical VObs (dissemination activities)
  - At the leading edge for Scientific Digital Repositories ‘We do not start from nothing’
  - EuroVO-DCA: building a provider community with a mixture of bottom-up and top-down approach
  - The astronomy approach is well adapted to our community organisation/culture and there may be others – Interesting to compare and learn from the others

## Concertation with other disciplines/projects (2)

- Requirements and discussions on standards and generic environments
  - OGF (WP5, also through the IVOA Interest Group)
  - DILIGENT, DRIVER
  - Discussions with other projects in particular at the Sophia Concertation Meeting (e.g. NMDB, EUFORIA, GENESI)
  - ‘Preservation’



wePreserve: Events: DPE, PLANETS, and CASPAR Second Annual Conference: Progress towards Addressing Digital Preservation Challenges - Mozilla F...



http://www.wepreserve.eu/events/fp6-2007/

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## DPE, PLANETS, and CASPAR Second Annual Conference: Progress towards Addressing Digital Preservation Challenges 5-6 September 2007

Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais / Torre do Tombo Lisbon, Portugal

[Register for this event.](#)

DPE, PLANETS, and CASPAR are delighted to announce their second annual joint conference to introduce participants to a range of tools and resources and to explain how these fit into the evolving context of the international curation and preservation landscape. This event is being held in cooperation with the European Commission and the e-SciDR project\* and will be held at the Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais / Torre do Tombo in Lisbon, Portugal on the 5th and 6th of September, 2007.

DPE, PLANETS, and CASPAR extremely grateful to the [Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais](#) and the [Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal](#) for their assistance with the organisation of this conference.

### Benefits of Attendance

Collaboration is a key objective for all of these projects and this conference will present participants with a forum for networking and bridge-building between these and other international initiatives. The event will provide an insight into leading-edge research and development activity from a number of EC-funded projects including CASPAR, PLANETS, and DPE.

### Programme

[View the full programme for this event](#) (PDF format, 16 KB)

### Information about the projects

For more information on DPE, PLANETS, and CASPAR please see:

- ◆ [DigitalPreservationEurope \(DPE\)](http://www.digitalpreservationeurope.eu/)

# Visibility in IVOA

- Take-up of IVOA standards by European data centres (WP3, WP6), feedback from implementation to all IVOA WGs and IGs (WP3-2)
- Gathering requirements (e.g., Spectroscopy Workshop)
- Input from WP4 to the Theory Interest Group and all WGs
- Input from WP5 to the relevant IVOA WGs, to the Theory IG and to the Astro-RG